Police colonel linked to Dacer slay killed in Cavite

Story below, Col. 6

AFP chief to Corpus: Is it OK to transfer you?

By Martin P. Marfil

HERE'S a conundrum for the intelligence community: Is military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus on his way out?

A top-level revamp of some ranking military officials will be implemented next month amid rampant talk that Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of

IS ISAFP/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Human cloning could be 'elaborate hoax'

WASHINGTON—US journalist Michael Guillen, who wanted to use DNA testing to verify claims that a human clone baby had been born, said Monday that he had suspended his effort and that the claims

HUMAN/ A16

BAKA CLOWNS MERON SILA!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, January 8, 2003 ★ 44 pages / 3 sections / vol. 18 / no. 31 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Biazon, De Villa wooed

Braganza pushes Moncupa for DAR

By Carlito Pablo

THE DANCE in President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet continues.

A highly placed source told the INQUIRER last night that the President had offered the public works portfolio to opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and the post of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez to Renato de Villa, who served as her first executive secretary.

Biazon has refused the post but the offer stays, the source said.

The source also said newly named Press Secretary Hernani Braganza had recommended lawyer Efren Moncupa as his replacement at the Department of Agrarian Reform. "But his fate is up to the President," the source quoted Braganza as saying.

Moncupa, a law graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, is currently agrarian reform undersecretary for operations. He worked at the prestigious Diokno Law Office during the Marcos dictatorship and was a member of the Free Legal Assistance Group, which defended many anti-Marcos activists in court.

An alleged last-ditch ploy notwithstanding, Malacañang yesterday announced Braganza's

BIAZON/ A16

DOING well, this man, one of five Filipinos wounded in the latest suicide bombing on Sunday night that killed 23 people and wounded a hundred is visited by Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. AFP

Filipinos in Israel thinking of home

TEL AVIV—Christopher Garcia, a 29-year-old Filipino who arrived in Israel seven years ago, has had enough of the suicide bombings in Israel.

"Each time there was a bombing in Israel, my Dad would call me from Manila and ask me: 'Why are you staying in Israel? Forget the money, come home! What's all this money going to be for if you die?'" Garcia said.

He said he used to laugh at his father and told him that he would be OK. "But last night, he called again and I think I might be changing my mind," Garcia said, holding his 7-month-old baby against him.

Garcia is just one of many mi-

FILIPINOS/ A6

Only 8 senators needed to scuttle Cha-cha

By Rocky Nazareno and Juliet Javellana

EIGHT is the magic number.

The attempt by the House to convene both chambers of Congress into a constituent assembly will likely be scuttled by the votes of eight senators.

Yesterday, two neophyte senators who belong to the so-called Wednesday Group spoke out strongly against Charter change.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Charter change now "will only create intense political debate and divisiveness," while Sen. Ralph Recto said "it will do everybody well (if) we set aside Charter change until after 2004."

The Wednesday Group, which meets regularly every Wednesday after regular sessions, includes Senators Joker Arroyo, Noli de Castro and Manuel Villar. It is known to vote as one on important issues.

After the chamber's leadership—Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda—declared Monday that they would oppose Charter change before 2004, the move to convene a constituent assembly now seems all but dead.

Drilon had described congressmen's call for Charter change before 2004 as "irresponsible."

Proponents of Charter change before 2004 need at least 16 votes in the Senate, but with only 23 senators, the votes of the eight administration senators make that almost an impossibility.

"Charter change at this time

ONLY/ A7

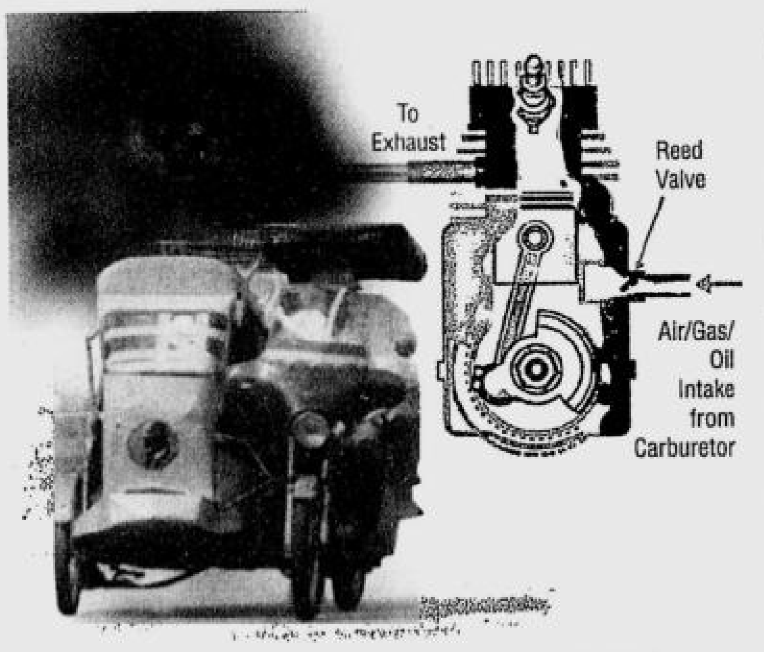
Police colonel linked to Dacer slay shot dead

By TJ Burgonio

A SENIOR police official implicated in the November 2000 abduction-murder of PR practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, was shot dead in Cavite last night, police said.

Senior Supt. Teofilo Viña died instantly from eight gunshot wounds

POLICE/ A6



LEAKING hydrocarbons from the fresh fuel combined with the leaking oil are a real mess.

Why 2-stroke tricycles endanger Metro folk

By Charles E. Buban

WHY do tricycles with two-stroke engines emit so much toxic fumes?

So toxic that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority cited the Clean Air Act in seeking the phaseout of some 1.02 million two-stroke tricycles nationwide, of which 120,000 are found in Metro Manila.

Pollution comes from two sources: the inefficient combustion of the oil and the way the engine is built.

The oil makes a two-stroke engine emit white smoke, and a badly worn engine can emit clouds of smoke. The exhaust contains a high level of unburnt gasoline and lubricant. Some of the incompletely burnt lubricant and heavier portions of gasoline are emitted as small oil droplets.

Nitrogen oxide emission levels tend to be low because a significant portion of the combustion products remains in the cylinder. But hydrocarbons leaking from the fresh fuel, combined with the leaking oil, are harmful to the environment.

They contribute to fine particulate matters blanketing Metro Manila. Fine particles are known to have serious health effects, including premature mortality and nonfatal effects like respiratory symptoms, exacerbation of asthma,

WHY/ A7

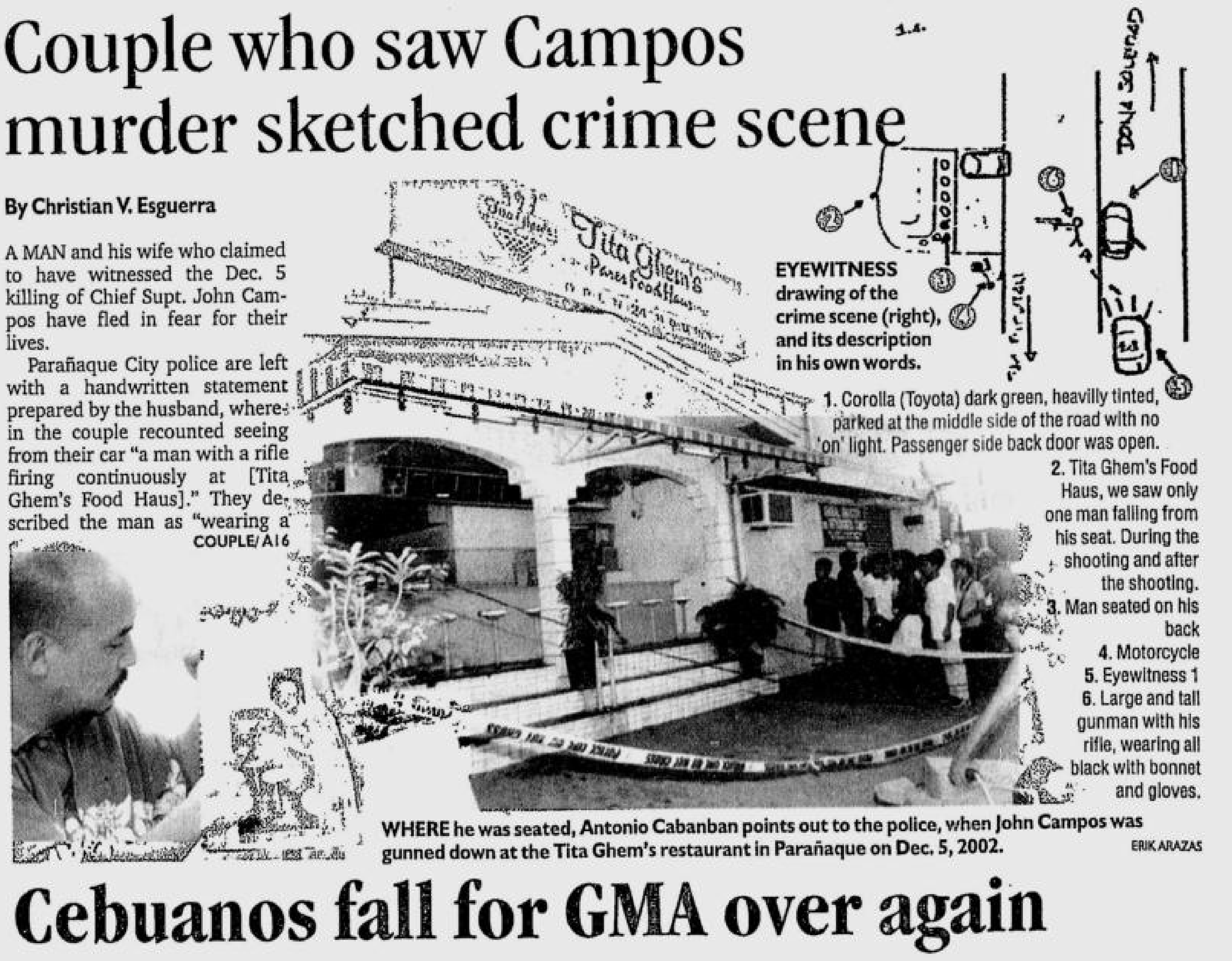
Couple who saw Campos murder sketched crime scene

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN and his wife who claimed to have witnessed the Dec. 5 killing of Chief Supt. John Campos have fled in fear for their lives.

Parañaque City police are left with a handwritten statement prepared by the husband, wherein the couple recounted seeing from their car "a man with a rifle firing continuously at [Tita Ghem's Food Haus]." They described the man as "wearing a

COUPLE/ A16



EYEWITNESS drawing of the crime scene (right), and its description in his own words.

1. Corolla (Toyota) dark green, heavilly tinted, parked at the middle side of the road with no 'on' light. Passenger side back door was open.
2. Tita Ghem's Food Haus, we saw only one man falling from his seat. During the shooting and after the shooting.
3. Man seated on his back
4. Motorcycle
5. Eyewitness 1
6. Large and tall gunman with his rifle, wearing all black with bonnet and gloves.

WHERE he was seated, Antonio Cabanban points out to the police, when John Campos was gunned down at the Tita Ghem's restaurant in Parañaque on Dec. 5, 2002. ERIK ARAZAS

Cebuanos fall for GMA over again

By Connie E. Fernandez and Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—In her first provincial sortie since her Dec. 30 shocker, President Macapagal-Arroyo came to this city over the weekend on "personal time" to attend a wedding but she herself might as well have been the radiant bride.

She stole the scene without even trying.

When the President marched down the aisle of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral as principal sponsor at the wedding of the son of a politician, she drew a hearty and prolonged applause, something which presidential aides said never happened before in the numerous weddings where she had stood as a sponsor.

Later in the evening at the Waterfront Hotel where local officials hosted a dinner for her, she received a standing ovation the moment she entered the hall.

A group of motorcycle enthusiasts called Karancho, a nongovernment organization, called the President, "our legendary inspiration."

"I have always been No. 1 in Cebu," the President told the INQUIRER.

The wedding of Jerald Mark Garcia to Christina Marie Wagner was the reason for her first trip outside

CEBUANOS/ A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/08/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

New DOJ chief to probe Perez

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEWLY appointed Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said yesterday he had no qualms about investigating his predecessor, Hernando Perez, in connection with missing funds in the Department of Justice.

Datumanong said the first order of business when he assumes his post on Monday would be a formal probe into missing Witness Protection Program (WPP) funds totaling P95 million.

"We will do whatever is necessary to find the funds," he said.

Datumanong issued the statement after Senate President Franklin Drilon said the DOJ, under Perez's stewardship, had failed to liquidate the WPP funds.

Perez has said his office had accounted for the funds.

But the Department of Budget and Management and the Commission on Audit said they had yet to receive all the receipts covering the expenditures of the WPP.

The funds were for the security and living expenses of witnesses who had sought state protection while their cases were ongoing.

Datumanong said he will officially meet with DOJ officials and employees on Monday.

He said he'll be bringing in only three of his own people to the DOJ—"my chief of staff, appointments secretary and somebody who can help me in the office."

He said the five justice undersecretaries led by Acting Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez would remain at their posts.

"They were appointed by the President," he said, "there's no reason why they should not continue in their jobs."

Datumanong said he was not sure about Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee, however.

Teehankee, who had been brought to the DOJ by Perez, was recently appointed chair of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel in concurrent capacity.

"We will see if it [Teehankee's holding down two jobs] will be good for the service," Datumanong said.

Aside from Teehankee, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida's fate is also up in the air.

Calida's term is co-terminus with Perez, so the former must be re-appointed by the President in order to remain in office.

DATUMANONG

Yesterday, Perez met with ranking DOJ officials for the last time.

He downplayed the meeting as a matter of procedure, saying that he went to his old office to retrieve some personal effects.

"It was a pleasant (breakfast) meeting. I bade goodbye to senior officials of the DOJ. I also offered some advice... to cooperate with Secretary Datumanong," Perez told reporters later.

Perez also assured the justice officials there would be no reshuffle in the DOJ.

"Nobody will be sacked. There is no such plan," he said.

He said he had talked to President Macapagal-Arroyo about this and she had assured him there would be no revamp at the DOJ.

Linggoy sues PCSO colleagues for graft

By Volt Contreras

THE "QUESTION Mark" man from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office yesterday sued seven fellow officials and retail giant SM Shoemart for graft before the Ombudsman's office.

PCSO Director Jose Luis Alcuaz questioned the purchase of P18.9 million worth of SM gift checks for the agency's officers and employees last December.

Reportedly the current target of a signature drive calling for his ouster, Alcuaz also asked the Ombudsman to stop possible attempts to tamper with relevant records in possession of the respondents.

The complainant, who waged the "!" sticker drive against former President Joseph Estrada, took advantage of his trip to the Ombudsman to promote his "?" campaign, in which he plays his latest self-appointed role: watchdog for corruption in government.

He handed out some of his new stickers to the lady lawyer before whom he swore to his complaint.

ALCUAZ

The five-page suit named as respondents PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" De Leon and Asst. Corporate Board Secretary Anna Liza Palamos; Asst. General Managers Conrado Zabella (on line lottery), Ma. Paz Magsalin (administration), Israel Estrella (corporate planning), Nilo Chincauco (production and marketing-OIC), Betsy Paruhinog (finance); and SM Shoemart Inc.

Alcuaz said the gift checks—which constituted the performance incentive worth P12,000 each for qualified PCSO officials and employees—were an "illegal expense," not authorized by a board resolution. And because no "valid bidding" process was conducted, he said, SM had enjoyed "undue financial advantage."

On Dec. 13, he recounted, Palamos issued a certificate saying the PCSO board had authorized the purchase in a resolution. But he did not recall having signed such a resolution, he said, nor had he heard of any deliberation on the matter.

Alcuaz, a second cousin of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, told reporters that only the President could remove him from the PCSO.

Told of the signature drive, Alcuaz said: "I'm laying my position on the line to clean up the PCSO." *With a report from Agnes Donato*

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500 RP, US soldiers set to hold new war games

ABOUT 300 Filipino and 200 American soldiers will hold war games from Jan. 22 to March 10, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

The announcement came just before the arrival today of US Undersecretary of State John Bolton to discuss a looming war against Iraq.

Bolton, in charge of arms control and international security at the State Department, is also visiting New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Reyes said the "Balance Piston 03-5" exercises will include demolition and sniper training in Luzon. *Reuters*

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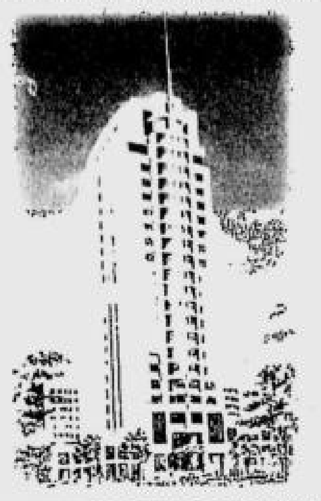

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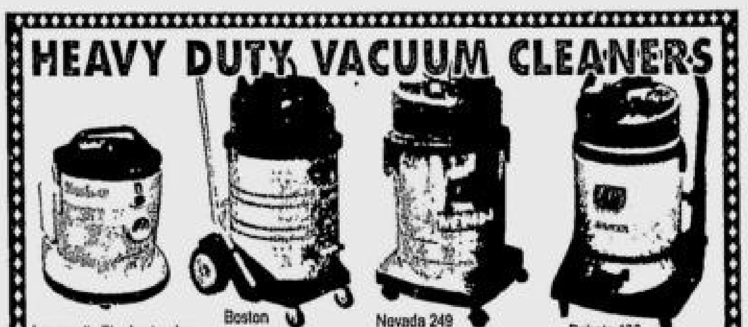

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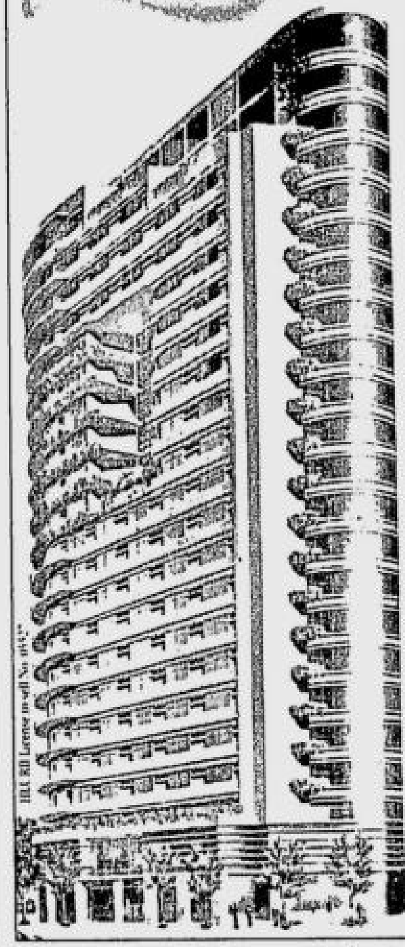

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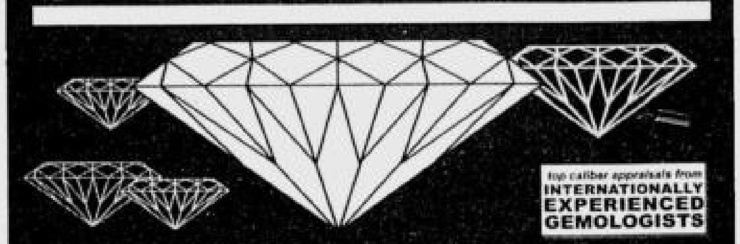

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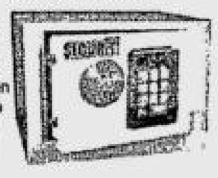

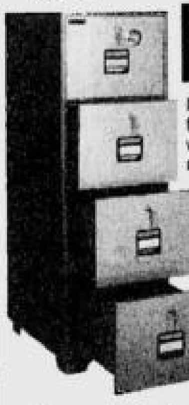

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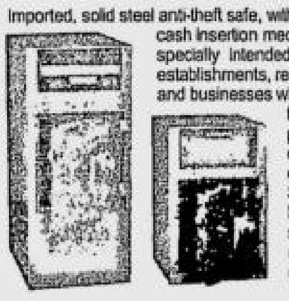

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FIGHT IS NOT OVER

Striking PLDT workers return to work, but . . .

By Blanche S. Rivera and Abigail L. Ho

THOUGH they have been ordered to return to work, striking employees of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said they are not giving up the fight and would ask the Department of Labor and Employment to include retrenched union members in its return-to-work order.

Peter Pinlac, president of the Manggagawa sa Komunikasyon ng Pilipinas (MKP), said the union would file within 10 days a motion asking the DOLE to reconsider its order.

The PLDT management has said the union members could do whatever they want so long as these are within the bounds of the law.

"We respect the union's lawful right to take whatever action they wish to take. PLDT, on the other hand, will respect and honor the decision of the Department of Labor and Employment," PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo "Butch" Jimenez Jr. said in a statement.

Pinlac said that the union would question the exclusion of the 546 retrenched employees from the order requiring all striking workers to go back to their duties.

"We will continue to fight, but this time, we will elevate this into a sectoral issue," Pinlac said in a phone interview.

The MKP has asked the labor federation Buklurang Manggagawang Pilipino, and the workers' party, the Partidong Manggagawa, to help it in its fight for the reinstatement of the 546 employees.

The union is also contemplating staging a hunger strike next week in protest against Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas' decision to certify the PLDT case for compulsory arbitration before the National Labor Relations Commission.

The NLRC will act as arbitrator between the management and the union.

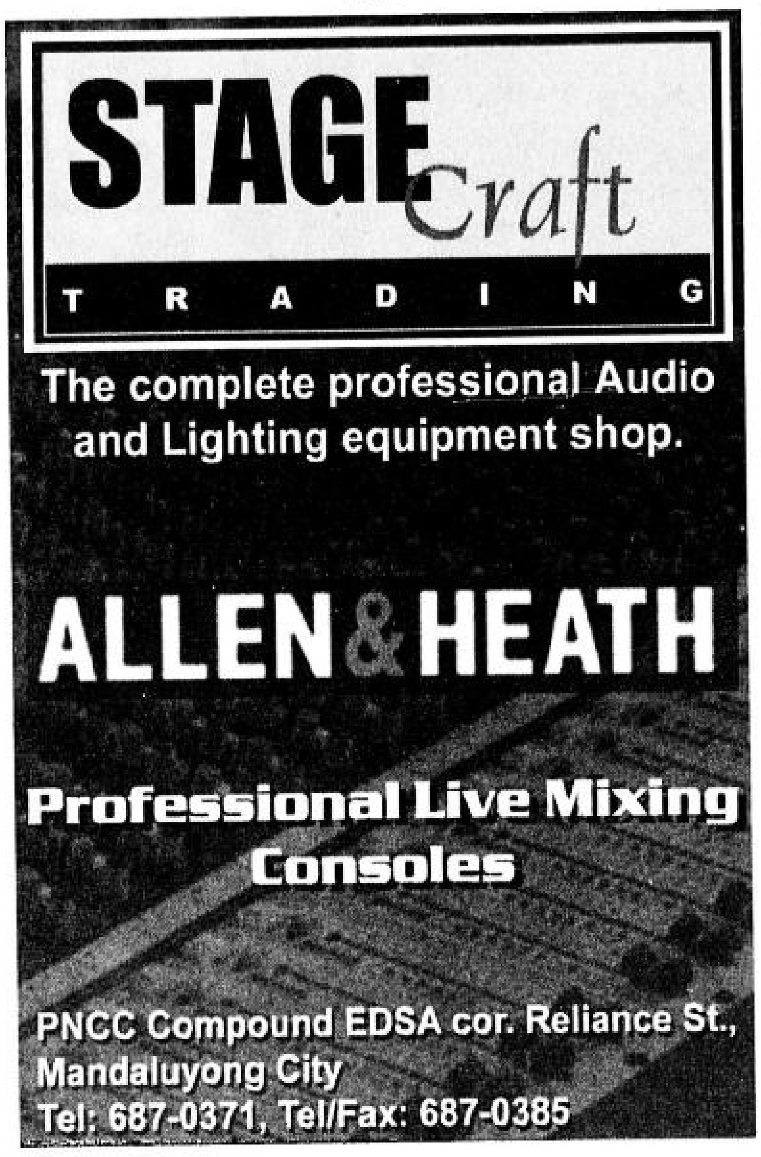
The MKP has issued a nationwide advisory directing its members to comply with the DOLE return-to-work order.

PLDT operator-assisted calls were functioning normally yesterday compared to the tentative and slow service of the past two weeks.

Jimenez said the company reserved the right to take action against any union member engaging in any unlawful or illegal action prejudicial to the company and its employees in light of the return-to-work order.

The DOLE order directed the PLDT to accept the striking employees under the same terms and conditions prior to the strike.

The order took effect at 5 p.m. yesterday.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Lakas leaders take up unity gov't today

By Donna S. Cueto

THE LEADING lights of the ruling Lakas party are meeting today to discuss for the first time the proposed government of national unity that would unite all the political forces in the country.

But it could all boil down to the politics of 2004, particularly the question of who is to fill the political vacuum created by President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that she would not stand in the 2004 elections, according to former senator Jovito Salonga.

Salonga said this would make today's meeting the first test of the President's resolve not to discuss politics or pick her bet for 2004.

"GMA is caught in a bind. She has a program and an outline of what she wants to do but she needs the cooperation of people like Speaker De Venecia and his followers in the House, who have their own interests and agendas in mind," Salonga said in the latest issue of the Kilosbayan magazine that is to come out on Thursday.

The Lakas executive committee is meeting today supposedly to initiate the formation of a government of national unity, a brainchild of Lakas co-chair De Venecia who revived the idea after the President announced her decision not to seek a full term in 2004.

But the event could just turn out to be a meeting of high-profile politicians whose paramount concern is who among them should run for president and replace Ms Macapagal in June 2004, Salonga said

Salonga mentioned such politicians as De Venecia, Vice-President Teofisto Guingona, former President Fidel Ramos, Senate President pro tempore Juan Flavier and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

"Being practical politicians—with the possible exception of Flavier—they have their own vested interests in mind and their personal agendas to peddle, whatever their high-flown rhetoric may be," the former Senate President said.

Still, he said De Venecia should be credited "for his grandiose words, his win-win solutions and his so-called rainbow coalitions which enable him to promote himself in the process," Salonga said.

Outspoken Arcbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, yesterday raised doubts about the viability of a so-called government of national unity, noting the number of conflicting groups that are being brought into the picture.

Cruz said the plan was "a great idea to entertain but a difficult reality to have," asking how the government could get the cooperation of ideological groups like the Moro and communist rebels who have been waging war against it for decades.

"Will leaders with contradicting ideological convictions collaborate for one complementary socio-economic program?" he asked.

As if anticipating the prelate's doubts, the Cabinet yesterday drew the line against rebel leaders joining the proposed unity government.

In a meeting yesterday, the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security (COCIS) laid out a four-point "non-negotiable" basis of unity—adherence to the Constitution, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the rule of law.

It thus rejected De Venecia's idea of including communist leader Jose Ma. Sison and Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Hashim Salamat in such a set-up. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Dona Pazzibugan*

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Cebu cop arrested for Dacer kidnap-slay

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—P02 Tomas Sarmiento thought he had been cleared of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, in November 2000.

That was why when operatives came to arrest him on Monday, Sarmiento cried.

The arrest warrant was issued by National Capital Region Judge Edelwina Catubig Pastoral in December 2000.

Chief Insp. Ritchie Posadas, CIDG 7 deputy chief, said his men told him that Sarmiento shed tears when the warrant was served at the Pardo police station here where he was on duty.

Sarmiento, who did not resist arrest, told the officers he thought he had been cleared of the charges.

Dacer, along with his driver, was abducted at the corner of Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway) and Zobel Street in Makati City on Nov. 24, 2000.

The two were taken to Indang, Cavite where they were strangled to death and their bodies burned.

At least 13 policemen, including ranking police officials, were charged.

They included Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar Mancao II and Teofilo Viña, all of whom remain at large.

Aquino was the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Organized Task Force operations chief, Mancao the head of the task force in Luzon, while Viña was the chief of the task force in the Visayas when the crime was committed.

CUSTOMS chief Antonio Bernardo, PSG chief Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho and Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Varela inspect the smuggled rice. JOAN BONDOC

P10-M rice smuggling try foiled

THE BUREAU of Customs said yesterday it had seized a shipment of 10,000 sacks of premium grade rice worth an estimated P10 million at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) yesterday.

The shipment, which arrived last month aboard 24 container vans from Thailand and Taiwan, was declared as sodium bicarbonate—ingredients in the production of fertilizers—and soda ash.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, who personally conducted the inspection, presented the seized shipment to the media, together with Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Varela and Presidential Security Group (PSG) chief Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"We have been continuously monitoring shipments entering the country after receiving reports that rice was being smuggled under fictitious consignees," said Bernardo.

"This is definitely a big blow to smugglers who have continuously underestimated our campaign," Bernardo said.

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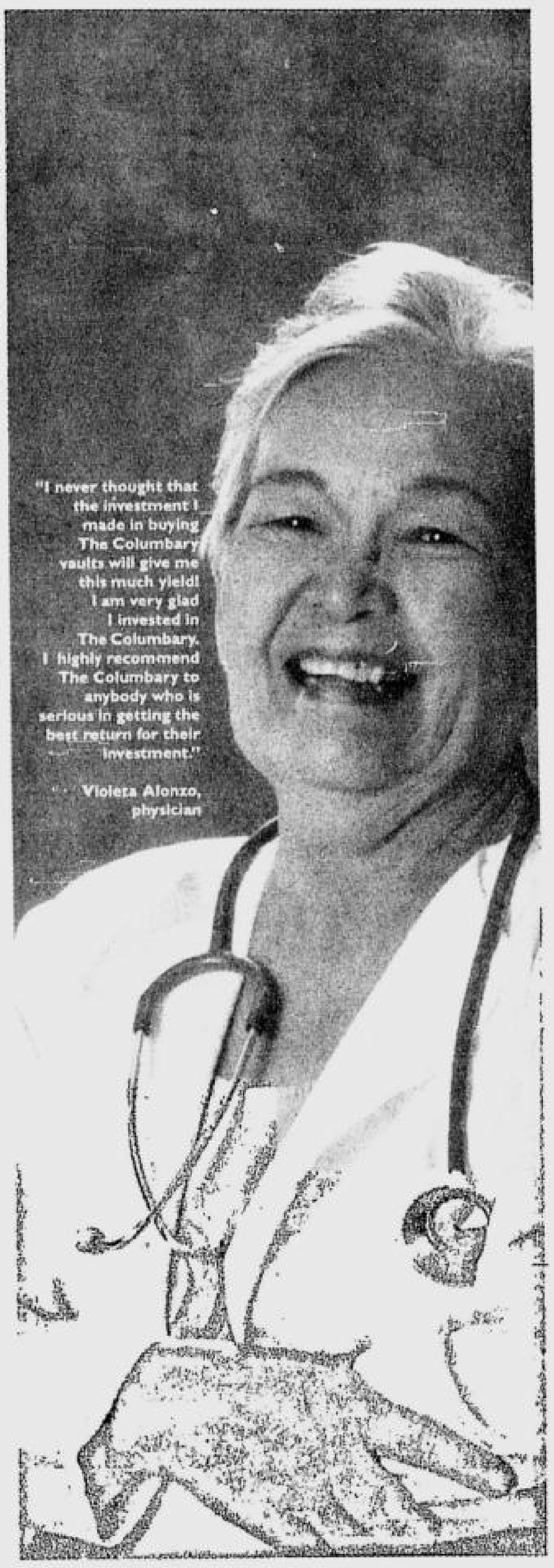

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DFA: 3 of 4 Filipinos hurt in suicide bombings out of danger

By Norman Bordadora and Blanche S. Rivera

THREE of the four Filipinos, who were hurt in suicide bombings in Tel Aviv Sunday night, have been declared out of danger, according to reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, DFA spokesperson, said yesterday that Geronimo Borillo and Julita Miranda had been released from their respective hospitals.

Borillo, who hails from Bangued, Abra, suffered injuries in the leg and abdomen. He was treated at the Beilinson Hospital.

Miranda, on the other hand, suffered minor cuts in the cheek from glass shards, She was treated at the Tel Hashomer Hospital.

A Filipina, who suffered eye injuries and was brought to the Bailenson Hospital, is also reportedly out of danger, but she has yet to be released.

The Filipino at the Tel Hashomer remains under observation. He suffered serious head injuries and is in the most critical condition.

The Israeli Embassy in Manila said illegal aliens hurt in the Israeli bomb blast would not be deported.

"Israel will render full medical care for all the foreign citizens, including Filipinos, who were injured in the incidents, without considering their legality status," said Roi Divir, embassy second counselor in Manila. Even illegal aliens would receive medical attention free of charge.

Despite the spate of violence that erupted in Israel two years ago, deployment to the country has increased since 2001, according to records of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

From 3,946 Filipinos who left for Israel from January to September 2001, the figures reached 4,355 in the same period last year.

POEA records also showed that the total deployment to Israel last year, which was 5,562, was higher than the 4,429 deployment in 2000.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that those who were hurt in the latest bombings in Tel Aviv had refused to be repatriated to the Philippines.

She said the government had offered to bring home overseas Filipino workers who would like to escape the bombings in Israel, but nobody wanted to return yet.

Filipinos in Israel thinking of home

From page A1

grant workers reconsidering their future in the Jewish state following the double suicide bombing which ripped through one of their neighborhoods on Sunday night, killing 23 people plus the two Palestinian bombers.

Garcia, who earns a living working for elderly pensioners, has already lost a Filipino friend in a Palestinian suicide bombing in the northern Israeli town of Hadera. He narrowly escaped another blast in Tel Aviv, a few months ago.

As forensic services were still identifying the victims of the twin blasts that rocked Tel Aviv's Neve Shanaan neighborhood, six foreign workers had already been counted among the dead.

At least five Filipinos were among the more than 100 injured in the bombings, according to diplomatic sources, while two Chinese, two Romanians, one Bulgarian and a Ghanaian were among those killed in the attack, the deadliest Palestinian attack in six months.

Most of the people living in the bustling multi-ethnic neighborhood have fled poverty-stricken or war-torn regions of the world and are in Israel with one thing in mind: making money.

But for some of Neve Shanaan's uprooted families, Sunday night's bloodbath, the second suicide attack to hit the neighborhood in six months, has brutally raised the issue of changing the course of their lives again.

"This is becoming too much. Had the blast been on Saturday, I would have been in the middle of it, because there is a Filipino restaurant where I go once a week just here," said Garcia, pointing toward the scene of the bombing, where shops have already started repairs. *AFP*

Police . . .

From page A1

while in the home of a councilor identified as Flaviano Satsatin in Barangay Santol, Tanza, at around 7:20 p.m., according to Supt. Rodel Sermonia of the Cavite police. *(See related story on page A4)*

Police arrested one suspect, Medar Cruz, 28. It was not immediately known if he had companions, said Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, police director for Southern Tagalog.

Viña had been tagged as the leader of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) team that abducted and killed Dacer and Corbito more than two years ago.

He had been on floating status since being implicated in the crime. But, according to Galang, Viña had been designated chief of the civil security unit at the Cavite provincial capitol at the time of his death.

Initial investigation showed Cruz was already at Satsatin's house when Viña arrived. They were about to have dinner when Cruz reportedly pulled out a gun and began shooting at Viña.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government Service Insurance System is happy to announce the winners of the 2001 4th Quarterly Raffle and the 2002 1st Quarterly Raffle of pensioners enrolled in the Pension Payment Through Banks Program (PPTBP) of the System.

Winners of 2001 4th Quarter Raffle

Office/ Branch	Prize	Name	Retirement Number
(Home Office)	First Prize (P5,000.00)	Pastora Santos	R 202699
		Praxedes Santos	PB 223378
		Eduardo Matos	R 78024
	Second Prize (P3,000.00)	Magin Tanedo	RJ 893
		Leonor Vera Cruz	PB 11174
		Beatriz Aldaba	PB 9928
	Third Prize (P2,000.00)	Felisberta Candelaria	PB 4103
		Paciencia Abinion	PB 174027
		Jose Hermoso	R 167102
AREA I Baguio	First Prize	Leoncio Jacala	PB 021581
	Second Prize	Manuela Castillo	PB 036530
	Third Prize	Lolita Dulay	DI 000983
Bataan	First Prize	Tiburcio Bermudez	PB 045502
	Second Prize	Wilson Mora	PB 118004
	Third Prize	Carbillo Villanueva	PB 002270
Batangas	First Prize	Briccio G. Caunlay	PB 132186
	Second Prize	Amada A. Villamor	PB 133384
	Third Prize	Lazaro S. Rosales	R 082986
Bayombong	First Prize	Eulalio D. Perdido	R 74360
	Second Prize	Silvino O. Blanco	PB 219871
	Third Prize	Irenea M. Pataueg	PB 179977
Cabanatuan	First Prize	Benjamin Padilla	PB 194539
	Second Prize	Luis Cordova	R 067633
	Third Prize	Fe Bundoc	R 072919
Cauayan	First Prize	Gonzalo Balico	PB 138452
	Second Prize	Martina J. Ballesteros	PB 040442
	Third Prize	Lucia M. Daguro	PB 158933
Dagupan	First Prize	Jesusa D. Diego	PB 115390
	Second Prize	Pedro A. Cardo	DB 002366
	Third Prize	Francisco C. Montero	PB 044406
Laguna	First Prize	Gallardo San Antonio	PB 183646
	Second Prize	Eutiquio Buencillo	PB 141118
	Third Prize	Agripino Lisboa	R 248059
La Union	First Prize	Agapito Valera	PB 25330
	Second Prize	Carolina Ortega	PB 159282
	Third Prize	Pedro Orille	R 081112
Laoag	First Prize	Trinidad C. Monje	PB 157502
	Second Prize	Petra A. Venzon	PB 149998
	Third Prize	Constancia M. Quiaoit	R 243065
Legaspi	First Prize	Virginia Salalima	DC 3809
	Second Prize	Natividad Palacio	RC 4737
	Third Prize	Faustino Briones	R 092335
Lucena	First Prize	Antonino Quejano	PB 010140
	Second Prize	Amanda Esquieres	PB 180013
	Third Prize	Romeo Deveza	PB 133764
Naga	First Prize	Lorenzo Mago	DC 000833
	Second Prize	Josefina Israel	RC 007642
	Third Prize	Jose De Mesa	PB 128620
Palawan	First Prize	Priscilla Lacao	PB 162305
	Second Prize	Rufina Gandia	R 050076
	Third Prize	Rosela Ponce de Leon	PB 140960
Pampanga	First Prize	Felix P. Dimalanta	PB 129033
	Second Prize	Isabel B. Garcia	PB 140223
	Third Prize	Carmen L. Vitug	PB 03447
Sorsogon	First Prize	Melchor E. Pareja	PB 140036
	Second Prize	Nestoria G. Forte	R 220076
	Third Prize	Rosalita S. Astorga	R 227130
Tarlac	First Prize	Trinidad M. Mangrobang	PB 112638
	Second Prize	Maximo M. Casino	PB 242793
	Third Prize	Octavio G. Fernandez	R 090774
Tuguegarao	First Prize	Pascual T. Francisco	PB 169321
	Second Prize	Expectacion B. Jurado	PB 114210
	Third Prize	Soledad C. Alonzo	PB 161028
AREA II Bacolod	First Prize	Norma M. Remolado	PB 169548
	Second Prize	Eduardo C. Arroz	PB 135501
	Third Prize	Concordia M. Margen	R 224110
Bohol	First Prize	Paz P. Apalisok	PB 108567
	Second Prize	Concordio V. Fernando	RD 005086
	Third Prize	Restituta D. Limbaga	PB 136678
Butuan	First Prize	Victorioso Go	RF 900324
	Second Prize	Andres Discipulo	DF 880894
	Third Prize	Juanita Plaza	PB 157054
Cagayan de Oro	First Prize	Alberto M. Sola	DF 890493
	Second Prize	Elquias M. Tenestrante	PB 150520
	Third Prize	Maria C. Ralanan	PB 106089
Catbalogan	First Prize	Llunita Dabuet	PB 045582
	Second Prize	Balbina Togonon	PB JJ002309
	Third Prize	Leoncio Zeta	PB 179087
Cebu	First Prize	Bienvenido Revilla	RD 003618
	Second Prize	Martiniano De Valle	PB 129470
	Third Prize	Constancia Antonio	45685
Davao	First Prize	Valentina P. Valencia	DG 000397
	Second Prize	Teodora M. Angcon	PB 106008
	Third Prize	Demetria M. Agot	DG 002419
Dipolog	First Prize	Agerico C. Ruiz	R 218293
	Second Prize	Gregorio B. Sumile	PB 183933
	Third Prize	Jacinta P. Ponce	PB 171413
Dumaguete	First Prize	Catalina M. Alvarico	PB 022437
	Second Prize	Adriano E. Cariño	PB 112367
	Third Prize	Cesario L. Amante	PB 147805
Gen. Santos	First Prize	Prudencio D. Herrera	DM 000891
	Second Prize	Necitas G. Enaguas	PB 185233
	Third Prize	Francesca E. Jacob	R 082758
Iligan	First Prize	Floro V. Cavales	R 154071
	Second Prize	Patrocinio Bado	DF 881201
	Third Prize	Teodoro C. Galocan	PB 166914
Iloilo	First Prize	Sofia Pamonag	DE 001598
	Second Prize	Aniceto Lustre	PB 024955
	Third Prize	Flora Monteclaro	PB 101143
Kidapawan	First Prize	Alfredo M. Galay Sr.	RC 006992
	Second Prize	Felipe C. Zurita	PB 018407
	Third Prize	Justiniano B. Cristobal	PB 127589
Maasin	First Prize	Lucia V. Villaflores	PB 101654
	Second Prize	Odona P. Alejandrino	PB 023310
	Third Prize	Maria U. Abundo	DJ 002598
Pagadian	First Prize	Crispina D. Asion	PB 129170
	Second Prize	Sergio P. Dioresma	PB 101432
	Third Prize	Francisco E. Fernando	DO 001089
Roxas	First Prize	Rosalia A. Gaviola	PB 004680
	Second Prize	Luisa S. Maagma	RE 008468
	Third Prize	Crispiniana A. Villareal	DE 002460
Surigao	First Prize	Salustiano E. Tiujongco	PB 119434
	Second Prize	Cristina P. Vargas	DD 003196
	*Third Prize	Floria C. Cuyno	DD 003895
Tacloban	First Prize	Fortunata Zabala	PB 013821
	Second Prize	Antonio Palagar	PB 167145
	Third Prize	Damiana Basul	PB 013638
Tagum	First Prize	Genoveva A. Donquines	DG 000747
	Second Prize	Antonio C. Doyog	DG002402
	Third Prize	Loreto N. Oani	DG 000740
Zamboanga	First Prize	Arpa S. Muallil	PB 019408
	Second Prize	Nuluddin B. Jala	PB 164810
	Third Prize	Josefina Cagoco	PB 028385

Winners of 2002 1st Quarter Raffle

Office/ Branch	Prize	Name	Retirement Number
(Home Office)	First Prize (P5,000.00)	Elisea Atienza	PB 47425
		Loreta Aure	PB 182002
		Presentacion Ayco	R 198708
	Second Prize (P3,000.00)	Virginia Jimenez	RA 307583
		Rosita Queri	PB 109173
		Domingo Rabulan	PB 9928
	Third Prize (P2,000.00)	Pio Avendano	PB 14530
		Herminio Bagawisan	R 74615
		Segundina Bocalbos	PB 31667
AREA I Baguio	First Prize	Gregorio Mabana	R 065469
	Second Prize	Leopoldo Penera	R 113146
	Third Prize	Thomas Ngalawen	PB 038534
Bataan	First Prize	Toribio S. Gutierrez	R 060417
	Second Prize	Rustico E. Reyes	PB 240530
	Third Prize	Jose R. Mayor	R 079299
Batangas	First Prize	Maura G. Sadiangcolor	DR 000122
	Second Prize	Natalia C. Tagle	R 082279
	Third Prize	Lilia L. Reglos	PB 152396
Bayombong	First Prize	Martin Montero	PB 126460
	Second Prize	Alejandro B. Domingo	R 196483
	Third Prize	Esteban H. Abuan	R 238218
Cabanatuan	First Prize	Antonio Garcia	PB 194504
	Second Prize	Melencio Pajimna	PB 181585
	Third Prize	Paz Tolentino	PB 125534
Cauayan	First Prize	Domingo Ariola	PB 114432
	Second Prize	Agapito Ronduen	RY 000255
	Third Prize	Maria Castañeda	R 088446
Dagupan	First Prize	Victorina G. Urmaza	PB 27068
	Second Prize	Rodolfo P. Orduna	RB 1503
	Third Prize	Aurellano S. Corla	PB 15573
Laguna	First Prize	Edilberto Aquino	R 189241
	Second Prize	Fe Estebaya	R 160735
	Third Prize	Josefina Rodriguez	R 075900
La Union	First Prize	Aldea Viado	PB 011386
	Second Prize	Ramon Aspiras	DI 002131
	Third Prize	Luzvimin Mendoza	DI 000699
Laoag	First Prize	Jose A. Custodio	PB 156959
	Second Prize	Miguel Tacata	PB 035719
	Third Prize	Benita T. Cabanada	PB 222568
Legaspi	First Prize	Elias V. Aldea	DC 002129
	Second Prize	Jimena Aguilar	DC 003241
	Third Prize	Leontina R. Ajero	PB 129242
Lucena	First Prize	German R. Quinto	R 058380
	Second Prize	Aurea Z. Villafuerte	PB 157912
	Third Prize	Pedro A. Otea	PB 102437
Naga	First Prize	Celedonio R. Balderas	PB 107147
	Second Prize	Adela B. Alarcon	DC 001066
	Third Prize	Cynthia T. Guinto	RC 006304
Palawan	First Prize	Alejo C. Favila	PB 160980
	Second Prize	Felix Q. Heredero	PB 177659
	Third Prize	Hilda A. Peralta	PB 214684
Pampanga	First Prize	Caridad P. Quiazon	PB 210456
	Second Prize	Josefina Aguas	R 094641
	Third Prize	Jose G. Coronel	PB 022119
Sorsogon	First Prize	Eufemia O. Andeleon	PB 221281
	Second Prize	Paz Gacosta	PB 004149
	Third Prize	Juanita C. Delos Santos	PB 121390
Tarlac	First Prize	Elena M. Rigor	PB 158501
	Second Prize	Nemesio C. Cardinoza	R 244073
	Third Prize	Celestino M. Soriano	R 074340
Tuguegarao	First Prize	Visitacion B. Atal	DY 000196
	Second Prize	Fidel D. Barsatan	PB 025239
	Third Prize	Lope T. Lucero	R 185819
AREA II Bacolod	First Prize	Patria Llamado	R 096613
	Second Prize	Fe S. Fernandez	R 184765
	Third Prize	Juan A. Cumla	R 072802
Bohol	First Prize	Vicente E. Nazareno	PB 109601
	Second Prize	Eliseo B. Enad	PB 138473
	Third Prize	Valentina T. Lopez	PB 142168
Butuan	First Prize	Tranquilino Adanza	R 127859
	Second Prize	Leonor Ilusrisimo	RF 001527
	Third Prize	Dulcisimo Aboc	PB 164786
Cagayan de Oro	First Prize	Anacleta R. Coronel	RF 002390
	Second Prize	Eulogia P. Martinez	RF 890339
	Third Prize	Jovito P. Daguinotas	PB 021158
Catbalogan	First Prize	Juana G. Abuda	PB 182269
	Second Prize	Sarah C. Contado	JJ 001186
	Third Prize	Felicisimo Sabenicio	PB 144224
Cebu	First Prize	Antonia Torres	PB 035566
	Second Prize	Juan Noquiao	PB 016333
	Third Prize	Baltazar Poyales	R 217571
Cotabato	First Prize	Celestino G. Manganaan	PB 202890
	Second Prize	Petra Tardo	PB 040382
	Third Prize	Marina V. Repollo	PB 112394
Davao	First Prize	Marylem Andit	DG 010748
	Second Prize	Patricinio Tabay	RG 003841
	Third Prize	Anita Allen	DG 003548
Dipolog	First Prize	Lucio T. Mabaldo	PB 136149
	Second Prize	Anita Y. Portacion	PB 200979
	Third Prize	Godilla P. Pastor	PB 25118
Dumaguete	First Prize	Amado C. Santelices	PB 132910
	Second Prize	Pilar I. Trayvilla	PB 031467
	Third Prize	Dickie V. Avanzado	R 227811
Gen. Santos	First Prize	Rosario B. Bilocura	PB 038288
	Second Prize	Bernadita Paclibar	PB 125311
	Third Prize	Anacleto M. Evangelista	PB 125112
Iligan	First Prize	Felimon Abris	
	Second Prize	Guillermo L. Layos	
	Third Prize	Catalino P. Legaspi	
Iloilo	First Prize	Judith Lamzon	DE 003847
	Second Prize	Olivia Sia	DE 004394
	Third Prize	Adela Dugayo	DE 004919
Kidapawan	First Prize	Amalia A. Anok	PB 186494
	Second Prize	Cresencio I. Cantoy	PB 039256
	Third Prize	Anecito S. Galupar	PB 141605
Maasin	First Prize	Jaime De Jesus	R 083827
	Second Prize	Gregorio Alvinez	PB 130614
	Third Prize	Saturnina C. Locsin	DD 001894
Pagadian	First Prize	Bienvenido V. Angelito	DO 000561
	Second Prize	Trinidad M. Montojo	DO 001606
	Third Prize	Juana A. Ochate	PB 044562
Roxas	First Prize	Leuteria Ilejay	R 089864
	Second Prize	Romeo Azurin	R 199366
	Third Prize	Josefina Gerardo	PB 017662
Surigao	First Prize	Neri S. Canda	DD 002791
	Second Prize	Ediberta L. Cubero	DD 002732
	Third Prize	Flora R. Edradan	DD 001779
Tacloban	First Prize	Hospicia Asuero	PB 173378
	Second Prize	Dominador Boncales	DJ 000845
	Third Prize	Edilberto Laurente	PB 040944
Tagum	First Prize	Lourdes L. Eculiada	RG 005465
	Second Prize	Alberto M. Ado	DG 001416
	Third Prize	Concepcion D. Salvador	RG 003854
Zamboanga	First Prize	Florentina Reles	PB 013586

* **Branch Office which has not submitted report as of December 2002:**
Cotabato Branch Office

Winning pensioners can claim their cash prizes at the nearest GSIS office.

If you are a pensioner, you too can win a cash prize in the succeeding quarterly raffles by enrolling in the GSIS PPTBP. Enrollment forms are available in all GSIS Branch Offices and at the GSIS Headquarters, Pasay City.

To our winning pensioners, our congratulations. The PPTBP Raffle is just one of the programs where the GSIS extends additional benefits to its valued members.

(Sgd.) WINSTON F. GARCIA
President and General Manager

Inquirer—January 8, 2003

Only 8 senators needed to scuttle Cha-cha

From page A1

will only create intense political debate and divisiveness and will prevent us from focusing on immediate reforms that can be achieved by executive action," Pangilinan said. He underscored the need to immediately address "the fight against crime and corruption and the drive to increase collection of taxes."

"We do not need constitutional amendments right now. What we need is good and effective governance," Pangilinan said.

Recto proposed that "political parties should instead include Charter change in their respective platforms that they would present to voters in the 2004 elections."

"It will do everybody well that we set aside Charter change until after 2004 when it would have been well-thought-out and clear on what we want to amend in the 1987 Constitution."

Opportunistic!

In the House, two administration congressmen, Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano and Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, accused Drilon of being "opportunistic" and of "salivating to become President."

House leaders, led by Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, also took exception to Drilon's statement that Congress should tackle more urgent measures first before tinkering with the Constitution.

"Drilon is the one highly irresponsible," Albano and Nograles said in a joint statement. "Clearly, by his declaration which does not reflect our people's sentiment, it is clear that he is opportunistic and selfish."

"He and his groups are thinking only of themselves and not of the interest of the nation and they are salivating to become President," they added.

Gonzalez pointedly reminded Drilon that the House had passed important economic measures as early as March last year, only for these bills to gather dust in the Senate under Drilon's leadership.

He said the Senate could finish its job only if it does not "investigate everything that happens in this country."

Gonzalez said he doubted if Drilon spoke for the majority of senators, saying a number of them publicly supported Charter change.

He said the real reason some senators resist Charter change is this: "They are afraid that the Senate may be abolished. I think that is the bottom line."

Albano and Nograles said there was now a "significant group of eight or nine senators" for Charter change, including Sen. Edgardo Angara, leader of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, lamented Drilon's criticism, saying the House initiative was made after more than a year of nationwide public consultations which he said showed the public clamor for changes in the Constitution.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said "95 percent" of the 218 congressmen supported Charter change.

"The clear path we should take is a unicameral, parliamentary system and only the deaf who refuse to hear and the blind who refuse to see and those with selfish motives and ambitions will not accept it," he said.

Ongoing debate

The name-calling obscured the debate over the need to shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

"After decades of experience, this shift will be absolutely good for the Philippines because of the continued conflict and gridlock between the President and the legislature as well as within the legislature itself," said Jose Abueva, a former president of the University of the Philippines.

"It should be changed to a parliamentary government where the impasse can be overcome by fusing the powers of the president and the legislature in a new parliament headed by a prime minister and his cabinet," Abueva said.

"We would like to adopt the federal-parliamentary systems of, for example, Germany, India, Canada, Australia, Spain or Malaysia," he added.

But Abueva also cautioned that further amendments to implement a new style of government should not be rushed by Congress.

"Rather than Congress, a constitutional convention should make these changes. This is for genuine reforms to be adopted because Congress has vested interests," he said.

Other reactions

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga called the constituent assembly mode self-serving, saying it would only benefit the present House leadership.

"It (Congress convening into a constituent assembly) is the only way that the leadership of the House can emerge as supreme leader," Salonga said in a phone interview.

He said his preference, if constitutional change were necessary, was through a constitutional convention after 2004. This way, the present members of Congress would be excluded.

"These people have their own vested interest and personal agenda to protect. (In case of a constitutional convention), it is a foregone conclusion that they cannot run, and they will just be strictly performing their duties," he said.

The congressmen, by their sheer number, will try to overwhelm the Senate, he explained. "This will only create divisiveness. This is against the spirit of the President's Rizal Day message calling for unity and sacrifice," Salonga explained. *With reports from Donna Cueto, Volt Contreras, Philip Tubeza; AFP*

Why 2-stroke tricycles ...

From page A1

and changes in lung function.

"Vehicle emissions of fine particles is particularly harmful because they occur near ground level, close to where people live and work," says the World Bank.

Since two-stroke engines discharge more unburnt gasoline than four-stroke engines, they also emit more organic lead. Lead can damage vital human organs and affect the brain. Among children, prolonged exposure can lead to neurological impairment.

Engine's design

Each time a new charge of air and fuel mixture is loaded into the combustion chamber, part of it leaks out through the exhaust port.

All internal combustion engines produce power by a combination of four actions: intake, compression, combustion and exhaust.

Two-stroke engines involve only two cycles (or strokes) to complete the four actions. A stroke is the action of a piston traveling the full length of the cylinder.

The four actions that take place in a two-stroke engine also occur in a four-stroke engine. But a four-stroke engine dedicates a complete stroke to each action so there is a separate intake, compression, combustion and exhaust.

In two-stroke engine operation, one of the two strokes combines the intake and compression.

The only moving parts inside a two-stroke engine are the crankshaft, the connecting rod and the piston, making the engine simple but capable of producing tremendous power.

A two-stroke engine has the potential to pack about twice the power into the same space because there are twice as many power strokes per revolution, giving a greater power-to-weight ratio compared to a four-stroke engine design.

However, at the bottom of the power stroke, the transfer ports, which deliver fresh fuel, are open at the same time as the exhaust port. This allows a significant amount of fresh fuel to run straight through the engine without ever being available for power production, making this type less fuel-efficient.

With these features, two-stroke engines provided unique benefits to engine designers, manufacturers and users. However, they were gradually abandoned for automotive use in the 1960s because of seemingly insurmountable emission problems.

Two-stroke motorcycles, in general, cost almost the same as four-stroke ones. But four-strokes are more fuel efficient—about 20 percent—than two-stroke engines, so fuel costs are lower.

For basic maintenance, four-stroke engines use fewer spark plugs than two strokes but need periodic checking of crankcase oil level, and regular oil and filter changes. For major repairs, one spends more for four-stroke engines because they have more components.

Four-stroke engines, however, are quieter and smoother running than two strokes. Power is not an issue because horsepower ratings are standard regardless of the technology being used.

Four-stroke motorcycles account for 25 percent of the 1.37 million motorcycles in the country.

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CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Private Sector

Thank you

As we begin the new year, we thank once more our consumers, the general public, and the radio, television and print media for their overwhelming support and enthusiasm for our Consumer Advocacy.

Text messaging has brought us closer to you, dear Consumers. We appreciate your suggestions, especially since you incur cost when sending a text message.

This year, as in the past, we will continue to monitor the prices of prime commodities, oil prices, transport fares, power rates, and water rates. We will broaden our watch to include shipping rates and tollways charges.

Now, on the recent oil price increases

The price increase is premature

The 49-centavo oil price increase on January 2 is premature. It should have taken effect ONLY on January 13, when the three oil refineries will start refining the higher-priced crude acquired in December.

The Department of Energy issued a statement that in the light of the oil price increase of Caltex, consumers must exercise their power of choice as the other 50 oil firms have not adjusted their prices.

We regret the untimely Caltex price increase. It came when motorists were running back to the city from their Christmas holidays. It spoiled their holiday mood.

We immediately appealed to Shell and Petron not to follow Caltex as there was no basis for increasing their prices. Just the same, Shell and Petron hiked their prices, despite the appeal of the DOE and the Consumer and Oil Price Watch.

No diesel price increase with Clean Air Act

We expect gasoline prices to increase due to the implementation of the Clean Air Act. BUT, there should be NO increases in the prices of DIESEL and other petroleum products as the oil companies have already reflected in their January 2 increases, the higher crude cost in December even if this crude is not yet being refined.

We hope that this time, the oil companies will exercise restraint and listen to our appeal, on behalf of consumers.

Manila Water Rate Increase - Effective January 1, 2003

	2002 30 cu. m	2003 30 cu. m	2002 100 cu. m	2003 100 cu. m
Residential	P 162	P 223	P 874	P 1,248
Semi-Business	P 208	P 293	P 953	P 1,367
Commercial	P 411	P 596	P 1,365	P 1,985
Industrial	P 442	P 644	P 1,473	P 2,146

51% of Manila Water households consume not more than 30 cubic meters and 41% consume between 31 cubic meters and 100 cubic meters. They represent 92% of the total service connections of 360,000 to Manila Water.

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CONSUMERS

- **The remaining staggered rate increase will not exceed P2.75 per cubic meter. There will be no further increase until December 31, 2007 except for increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and quarterly Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of forex gains/losses based on P52.00 to $1.00.**
- **Manila Water maintains its 60% - 40% debt to equity ratio at all times.**
- **Manila Water meets its commitment to expand water service coverage from the present 4 million to 5 million people and to provide piped water over the next 5 years, to an additional 400,000 low-income people who have no access to water.**
- **Water loss due to leaks and pilferage will be reduced further by an additional 10 percent.**

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Chairman

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2003

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

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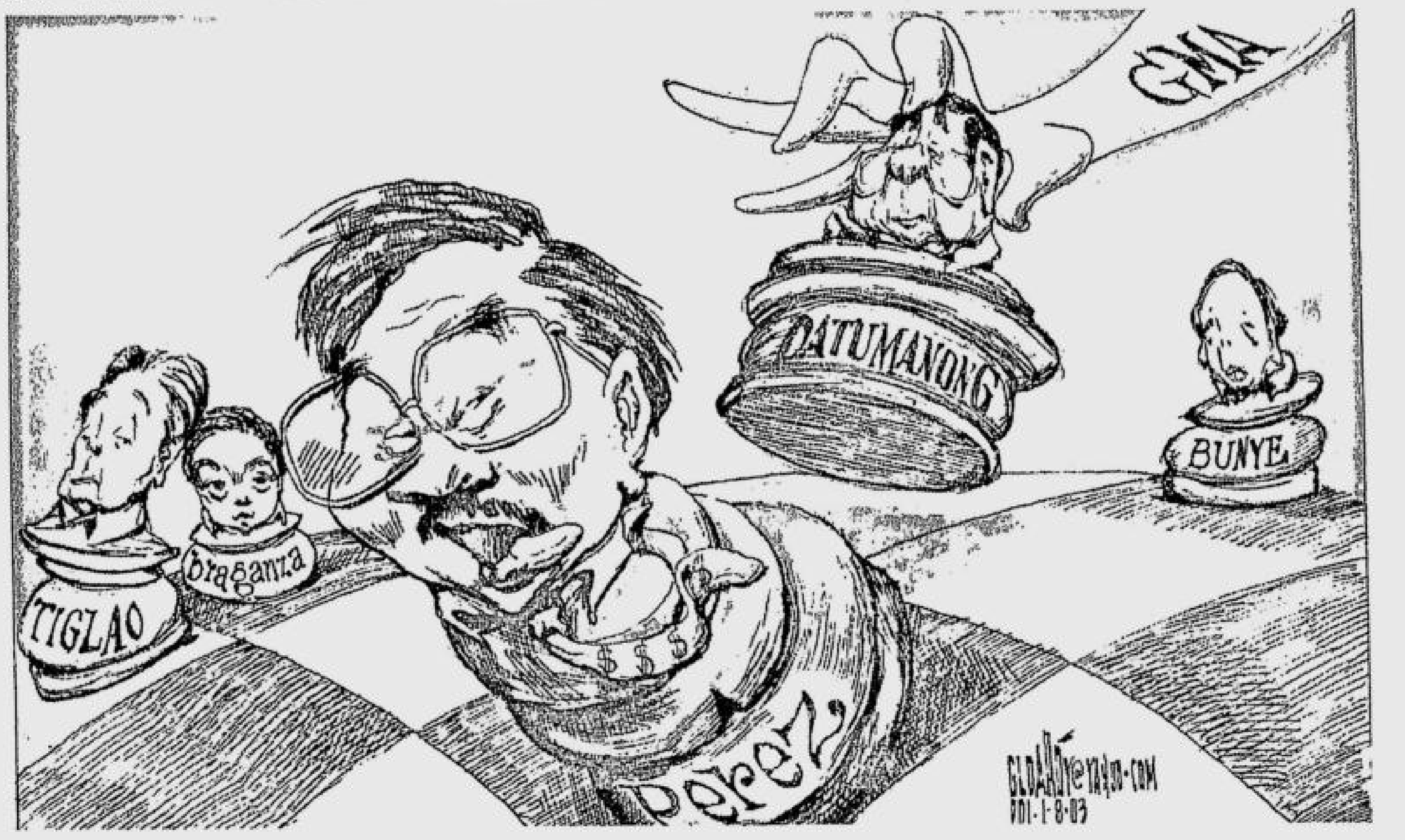


Big let-down

EDITORIAL

FILIPINOS who were looking forward to a new beginning during the new year, after President Macapagal-Arroyo publicly renounced her ambition to run for a regular term, must have been dismayed by her choice of new justice secretary. Instead of getting a new face, Ms Macapagal recycled an old member of her Cabinet, signifying a reluctance to make a clean break with the past and strike out in a new direction and an inclination to settle in her comfort zone. Simeon Datumanong's appointment as justice secretary appears to be uninspired as well as uninspiring to people who have grown impatient with the slow dispensation of justice as well as the quality of justice.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President picked Datumanong for the Department of Justice because of his credentials as a lawyer and a lawmaker, his good track record as public works secretary and to show the great importance she attached to the development of Mindanao since he was from that big island.

Unfortunately, only the last qualification, i.e, that Datumanong comes from Mindanao, is not debatable. And given that, it is arguable that he would be able to help the people of Mindanao better in his new post than in his old. One of Mindanao's biggest problems is the lack of infrastructure. As public works secretary, Datumanong could have ensured that that big island got at least its fair share of infrastructure projects, like roads, bridges and irrigation systems, or that it be given preference in the apportionment of such projects. How much more can he contribute to Mindanao's development as justice secretary?

As a lawyer, apparently all that Datumanong can boast of is placing 12th in the 1959 bar examinations. But even topping the bar is not a sure-fire guarantee that one would be good in the practice of law. Datumanong may be bright, but that doesn't mean he ranks among the country's best lawyers. There is little in his record that would show how good he is at litigation or as a legal scholar.

What his curriculum vitae shows is that Datumanong has been in politics for almost all of his adult life. He has served twice as governor and congressman for several terms, as well as member of the Marcos era Batasang Pambansa. But while he may have proven to be an astute politician, his record as a lawmaker or governor appears to be undistinguished and unremarkable. And yet he wants to get back his seat in the House of Representatives and will therefore serve in the Cabinet only until December at the latest.

Bunye said Datumanong was highly regarded by the other members of the Cabinet. But serving in the Cabinet is not a popularity contest. It is about drawing up plans and projects and carrying them out quickly and well.

Datumanong has been in the DPWH almost from day one of the Macapagal presidency, and what has he accomplished? The most significant story to come out of that department during his tenure was the P139-million scam in connection with the repair of DPWH vehicles. Datumanong says he needs a few weeks to wind up his affairs in the DPWH, specifically citing the need to wrap up this case. This case has been dragging for almost a year now. If it takes Datumanong so long to deal with this one case, how can he be expected to speed up the resolution of thousands of cases being handled by the DOJ?

If this key appointment is an indication of what the new Cabinet will be, Filipinos may have to give up any hope of seeing an improvement in governance during the remainder of Ms Macapagal's term.

No solution in sight

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE FUNDAMENTAL problem of Israel has remained the same since the 1967 occupation. It is the inability to decide what Israel values most: a tolerable solution to the Middle East, or the freedom to grab more of biblical Palestine for Jewish settlements. One government after the other has lulled itself into the belief that no real decision has to be made. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has from the beginning acted as if the entire problem didn't exist. And—for the time being—the Bush administration has given him free rein.

Democratic developments in the occupied territories do not bring the solution any closer unless moderate candidates have something to offer to support the moderation they claim. Sharon does not offer anything in this respect. Most likely, he will continue as prime minister in January, and chances for a solution will remain nonexistent during the next government.

Helsingin Sanomat (Helsinki, Finland)

There can't be a 'strong republic' with anarchy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T it ironic that President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that she will not run in the 2004 presidential polls, because she wants to end the "endless politicking" that has hampered the country's progress, has triggered the opposite reaction? A day after she made her supreme sacrifice, there was a sudden burst of politicking as ambitious politicians of the administration party jockeyed to be chosen the presidential candidate. And that while she kept repeating that she wants to build "a strong republic," she may be, wittingly or unwittingly, making it weaker? Her recent executive order banning ejectment of squatters, including those ordered by the courts (the executive can't interfere with decisions of the judiciary), unless approved by Malacañang, is an example. Before her renunciation of her presidential ambition, this would be a sure sign of politicking, courting the squatter votes at the expense of the legitimate and taxpaying property owners.

How can there be a "strong republic" if there is anarchy at the same time? Squatters violate our laws and the rights of property owners, and by coddling them we encourage anarchy. As I said in yesterday's column, the real beneficiaries of the pro-squatter government policies are not the genuine poor squatters but the squatting syndicates, speculators and opportunists because they take advantage of and profit from these squatters.

The coddling of sidewalk vendors—as some mayors are doing because they are voters—also encourages anarchy. The Malacañang plan to relieve Bayani Fernando of the chairmanship of the Metro Manila Development Authority by offering him the position of public works secretary, is a step in this direction. Fernando has been doing a good and valiant job restoring order on the sidewalks, so why yank him out although his job is not yet finished? Especially because, being a contractor, there may be a conflict of interest if he becomes the head of the DPWH. One would think this is another case of politicking to please sidewalk vendors and court their votes. Is the President sincere about her "no politics" appeal? Or is this just an oversight in her Cabinet revamp?

Another case of anarchy is when tricycle drivers blocked Mendiola, Legarda and Recto streets near Malacañang the other day to protest the implementation of the Clean Air Act. The massive disruption of traffic won for the tricycle drivers and operators a one-month reprieve. It is likely that after the reprieve, the tricycle people will block the roads again to win another reprieve or even the exemption of tricycles from the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Because they know that in the Philippines, anarchy pays.

Everybody wants to be exempted from laws that affect them negatively. Sidewalk vendors want to be exempted from rules to rid the sidewalks of obstructions. Shop and restaurant owners who use the sidewalks as their private parking lots want to be exempted, too. Bus and jeepney drivers want to be exempted from traffic rules and regulations. Very soon, pickpockets will want to be exempted from the law if their take is less than P1,000. Car thieves will want to be exempted if they were tempted because the vehicle was parked in a dark spot. Kidnappers will want to be exempted because they needed the money. If there are to be so many exemptions, why bother to have laws at all?

But the government usually gives in to those who violate our laws, especially the squatters and sidewalk vendors and tricycle drivers—because they are voters. That's politicking. That encourages more anarchy, but anarchy and a strong republic can't mix. On the contrary, anarchy weakens further an already weak state. To be strong, a state needs law and order.

Taxpayers spend billions of pesos to support a Congress that passes more laws. But if those laws are not going to be enforced at all, why waste on them so much money that can be put to better use to help the poor?

* * *

A word on the tricycles and the Clean Air Act. Everybody can see that we now have too many tricycles on the roads. Any Tom, Dick and Harry with a few thousand pesos can buy a Japanese motorcycle, have a welder attach a sidecar, get a franchise or permit from city hall and we have another tricycle to clog the roads and pollute the air.

Too many tricycles are bad for the health. First, they discourage the people from walking. Instead of walking for good health, they ride the tricycle. Second, they pollute the air with their noxious fumes and noise. There must be a limit to anything and that's what the Clean Air Act seeks to do.

The drivers act as if the law will deprive them of their livelihood. No, it won't. It only seeks to protect the health of all the people—the drivers and their passengers included, by stopping the issuance of new tricycle franchises and phasing out the two-stroke motorcycle engine, which is the worst pollutant. If you already have a three-stroke motorcycle and a franchise, then *tuloy ang iyong ligaya*. If you have a franchise but a two-stroke engine, then change it with a three-stroke one.

Question: Why don't we ban the Japanese from selling their two-stroke motorcycles here? And make them take back these old motorcycles and replace them with the three-stroke versions?

The same policy on tricycles, by the way, should also be applied to jeepneys and buses. There are already too many of them and they pollute the air as much as the tricycles. Just look at Edsa where buses are lined up bumper to bumper from Monumento to Baclaran. And look at the jeepney terminals. Too many drivers on long lines of jeepneys sleeping away the better part of the day waiting for passengers. This has got to stop.

Fools rush in

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD about the Cha-cha again last Christmas in a gathering of civil-society groups. People were busily looking at the scenarios (a favorite pastime of NGOs during parties) if Congress should ram through a Charter change.

I said I myself was just wondering whether FPJ would run or not. If he decided to do so, I said, Congress could safely forget the Cha-cha. Substituting the Cha-cha for presidential elections in that event would not be unlike pulling out a much-awaited FPJ movie in favor of an old Robin Padilla rerun. "Edsa III" would be nothing compared to the explosion that would attend such a pass.

But given that FPJ doesn't run—and the signs seem to augur well in that direction, to FPJ's or his wife's, credit—and that GMA isn't running, the equation indeed seems to have changed. The articles that appeared in last Sunday's Talk of the Town, authored variously by Jose Abueva, Roberto Verzola and Teddy Lopez, analyzed the altered parameters. So, has Charter change become a good idea at this time?

Well, I myself have expressed sympathy toward a shift to a parliamentary system. But I've always had several caveats to it.

First, the timing. The best time to initiate that shift is at the beginning of a new president's term, not at the end of it. Or the best time to undertake that shift is when it is not weighed down by vested interest. Otherwise, whatever virtues it may have will be completely defeated. That was the case when Fidel Ramos first dangled the idea toward the end of 1997, which everyone rightly saw as an effort to cling to office. A shift to a parliamentary system now will also be seen as GMA's backdoor to Malacañang: She could come back as prime minister, after being voted so by the victorious party in parliamentary elections, which is likely to be the ruling one.

A political exercise that foments distrust cannot possibly yield any blessing for the country. For that reason, I would oppose any Charter change until after the 2004 elections.

Second, I prefer a plebiscite on a parliamentary system rather than a Charter change. That means a long and arduous campaign beforehand to educate the public on the differential virtues—and vices—of a presidential and parliamentary system. A campaign marked by open debate on the subject. Otherwise, the plebiscite becomes nothing more than the improvised ones Marcos launched after martial law, which were meant to stampede the public into accepting the new Constitution. That was the one finished after martial law, which made Marcos president and prime minister at the same time.

My problem with a wholesale Charter change is not just the cost of it, though there's that too. At the very least, why change a constitution we haven't really tried? The 1987 Constitution is big on human rights and expanding the scope of democracy, the latter particularly expressed in provisions calling for the "institutionalization of people power." The governments that have emerged from its loins have only largely enshrined police power, in the name of fighting crime and lately terrorism. If they have enlarged anything, it is only the powers of those involved in national security. The problem is not that we are saddled by a restrictive constitution, it is that we have never felt strictly bound by it.

More to the point, many of those calling for a Charter change miss the point completely, particularly when they argue that the current Constitution does not respond to current realities, like globalization. The American Constitution has stood for a couple of centuries and the French Constitution for more than that. That has not prevented the Americans and the French from conscripting globalization for their own ends. A constitution is not an economic blueprint or a political platform. It is an expression of a people's soul: their set of beliefs, their philosophy in life, the general direction they want to take. That's why they call it a constitution, because it constitutes. It is the stuff we are made of, like the atoms of our body, not the things we put on and take off, like the clothes we wear.

My last caveat about a shift to a parliamentary system is that it is only as good as we push it in the right direction. A parliamentary system has its pitfalls too. At the very least, in a parliamentary system, the prime minister and his government exist at the sufferance of parliament. A vote of no-confidence is enough to bring a government down. If the never-ending power-grabs and stalemates in the Senate are anything to go by, we could be in for some really rough times, particularly if the parliamentary elections end up being closely contested and no clear majority rules in parliament.

Far more worrisomely, as I said in a previous column, though a parliamentary system can help stop elections from being popularity contests, the prime minister not being directly voted by the electorate but by the parliamentary body, it could also bring back an old bane, which is *trapo* politics. We could be jumping from the frying pan to the fire. A parliamentary system gives power back to the parties, which in this country have been little more than coalitions of factions built up around powerful individuals. Or those who know how to wheel and deal. It does little to inspire public confidence that the current leader of the move to change the Charter is Jose de Venecia, who lost the 1998 elections, and lost it big, not merely because his rival, Erap, was immensely popular but because he was immensely not so. He, like Doy Laurel and Ramon Mitra before him, was widely seen as a *trapo*.

By all means let's talk about a shift to a parliamentary system. But let's not rush—except for love—into things that angels fear to tread.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

High expectations dissipating?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CABINET revamp is the wrong indicator of any drastic redirection of administration policy following the Dec. 30 withdrawal of President Macapagal-Arroyo from the 2004 presidential elections.

The replacement of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez by Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong and the shift of Presidential spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao to the position of chief of staff and of Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza as press secretary, the latter in lieu of Ignacio Bunye, are merely a continuity of the piecemeal Cabinet changes that began late last year. Further changes are expected before the end of the month, but the event to watch is the first policy speech due on Jan. 9, which is expected to be the first of a series of mainly economic initiatives designed to rev up the economy.

Based on the pattern of Cabinet changes, the President does not seem to be inclined to shake-up the Cabinet with one bold stroke. That is not her style. She does not want to create an earthquake whose tremors would delay or impair the launching of new programs and cause more disruptions. The change so far shows she does not buy the more sweeping formula of Speaker Jose de Venecia whose concept of a Cabinet of "national unity" is sweeping the board clean and installing new ministers representing sectoral and ideological groups.

If De Venecia's formula is a recipe for chaos, President Macapagal is following the traditional pattern of just shifting personnel and giving the Cabinet a new coat of paint that is no more than a cosmetic application. She is tapping the same faces and shuffling them around, if she is not recruiting opposition people (like Foreign Secretary Blas Ople) to hold the administration alliance in the Senate from eroding.

The President has been unhappy with Braganza's performance at the Department of Agrarian Reform. It is not clear whether she will replace Braganza with a more audacious agrarian reform secretary that will make the peasant sector believe the administration is more determined now to advance peasant interests in the face of the return of the landlords to big landholdings via onerous lease contracts amounting to buy back land-reformed land. Bunye has been doing a good job as press secretary and Braganza is untested in communication skills. Apparently, his shift is a shuffle rather than a step to improve the administration's communication reach.

Private lawyers have jumped into criticizing Datumanong for lack of experience, but they might be prejudging him. He received creditable marks in the bar examinations (he took 12th place). True, he is not in the league of memorable and prestigious justice secretaries like Pedro Tuason, Jesus Barrera, Claudio Teehankee, Jose Diokno or Jose Yulo, but there is also a long list of less than outstanding justice secretaries. There's one perspective that should not be overlooked in Datumanong's appointment. He is the first Muslim justice secretary and, if we consider that one of the President's aims in retiring in 2004 is to forge unity and heal wounds, Datumanong's appointment is symbolic. For a long time, we have had no Muslim representation in the Senate and even in the Cabinet, until the Macapagal administration. Whether Datumanong can maintain the integrity of the justice department remains to be seen. So far, the Department of Public Works and Highways which he left, has not been embroiled in any scandals.

So far, a segment of the opposition led by Sen. Edgardo Angara has responded positively to signals from the President seeking legislative cooperation to push a focused agenda for the next 17 months. The report that she offered the Senate presidency to Angara is old hat. The offer was made before Christmas—three weeks before her Dec. 30 speech. Her Rizal Day speech could have given the offer new dimensions, but presidential intervention in the Senate could be messy and draw blood. Deposing Senate President Franklin Drilon could flare up the old divisions in the Senate in which the administration's grip remains fragile.

It has been a week since the President's watershed Dec. 30 speech and the follow-up has been seen only in the area of Cabinet reshuffle. She has been expected to follow up these changes quickly with policy initiatives focused on specific programs. She was expected to announce these initiatives on New Year's Day, but the announcement was delayed to Jan. 6 and then Jan. 9. With only 17 months left to implement a new national agenda, a week's delay is already precious time squandered and is already losing momentum.

The Cabinet changes themselves have created more uncertainties over the redirection of her government cast in a new political environment bubbling with expectations of bold change. The priority given to Cabinet reshuffling by plugging slots, without introducing new blood, sends the message that the shuffle is independent of the programs. This priority does not make sense. Policy and programs should take precedence over selection of personnel to implement them. Then personnel should be appointed to fit into these programs. As it is, Cabinet appointments appear completely disjointed from programs. This sequence is a formula for inflexibility and putting square pegs in round holes. The actions so far, post Dec. 30, draw a picture of improvisation. If the immediate purpose is to regain public confidence in a presidency that has declared its emancipation from being hostage to narrow political interests, the ad hoc response is swiftly dissipating the heady atmosphere of high expectations created by the Dec. 30 speech.

A slow dying

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the characters introduced in the "LOTR" sequel, "The Two Towers" is "Treebeard," an ent or defender of the forest, who looks after trees and protects them from destruction. About the oldest creatures in Middle Earth, ents are gigantic and powerful but patient as the ages. They are slow to anger, and will put up with as much aggravation as they can stand before even considering whether they should take action or not.

But when the ents, under Treebeard's leadership and hobbits Pippin and Merry's instigation, finally rise up, their fury and power is truly awesome. Angered by the massive destruction of the surrounding forests, the ents march against Isengard, the stronghold of errant wizard Saruman, who has stripped the countryside for the raw materials with which to create the Uruk-hai, which would today be considered a droid army.

Literary critics and biographers of JRR Tolkien are one in saying the destruction of Isengard was an expression of the author's disgust and despair at the creeping industrialization of rural England, which Tolkien idealizes as the Shire, the hobbits' home and refuge. Isengard is the industrial belt, the Uruk-hai the evil fruits of the Industrial Age. And Treebeard and his cohorts are Nature's revenge.

But we need neither ents nor literary analogies to show us how Nature can be riled and what She can do to get back at those who would abuse the environment. Ormoc, the Northern Luzon floods, Payatas, Cherry Hills are just a few examples of the havoc that can be wrought when people exploit nature without heed of restraint and unmindful of the possible damage they are inflicting.

* * *

DISASTERS don't even have to be single, dramatic events. A river can take five decades to die, and by the time people realize what's happened, it's often too late to bring it back to life. And an entire populace can be breathing in dirty air or drinking dirty water and realize they are slowly killing themselves only when their children start dying or they themselves begin coming down with lung ailments and chronic diarrhea. Or, we discover that the next generation has grown up with intellectual capabilities seriously stunted, the result of breathing in lead particulates for decades.

The thought occurred to me while I watched footage of the tricycle drivers' strike at Mendiola, protesting the more stringent requirements of the Clean Air Act. In the first place, the law was passed more than a year ago, and its implementing rules and regulations had taken all this time to be formulated. During the entire period that the law was under review, all concerned sectors, the tricycle drivers included, had ample opportunity to air their views and contribute to the crafting of the eventual law. That's the reason legislation goes through what's called a "mill," because the people who're affected by a proposed law expect and demand to be heard and to lobby their concerns with the legislators. But once a piece of legislation makes it through all stages leading to passage, and it's signed into law, then everyone is bound to follow it.

* * *

THE "TRIKE STRIKE," with hundreds of motorized tricycles massing at Mendiola and tying up traffic for hours, may have succeeded in postponing full implementation of the vehicle emission tests and the phase-out of two-stroke engines for a month. But it also means that the damage to the environment, and to our health, continues.

Environment Secretary Bebet Gozun has assured that the month-long reprieve would be used to "review" the implications of the Clean Air Act on the livelihood of the tricycle drivers and operators. But even now, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando assures that only new franchise applicants will be subjected to the more stringent requirements.

This means that air quality in the metropolis can't be expected to improve any time soon, since the same number of two-stroke engines spewing toxic emissions in the air would be around for who knows how many more years. Assuming, of course, that the prohibition on the registration of new two-stroke engines will be faithfully implemented. We do know how implementation of laws is carried out here, don't we?

* * *

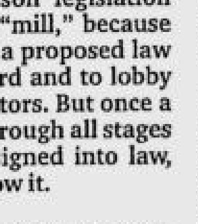
UNFORTUNATELY, there will be no Treebeard striding out of Mirkwood to make us see the light. There won't even be a dramatic incident, such as a flash flood or garbage slide to wake us up and out of our indifference and short-sighted interests. What will happen to us instead is a slow and painful death, as more and more of us fall sick from the poison in our air. Government statistics indicate how much our indifference to air quality is already costing us, with a World Bank study (one of whose authors is Gozun) warning that air pollution would cost the Philippines almost $1.5 billion per year in medical treatment, lost wages and low productivity.

Most of these added expenses are being shouldered by the poor, who are already in poor health and who are virtually defenseless against an unsafe environment. These include the tricycle drivers protesting against the Clean Air Act. What do you bet that many among them, and their families, already suffer from chronic bronchitis, asthma, TB and other such ailments? And how much more are they spending on health care these days?

Of course ways must be found to reconcile the "warring" interests of livelihood and environmental protection, to make the pairing of "sustainability" and "development" real and feasible on day-to-day terms. But sometimes, we're called to sacrifice short-term, personal interests for the long-term public good. This is one of those times.

Teachers and history

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN asked why I became a historian, my stock reply is that I did not like the way I was taught. When people come up to me and say that they hated history in school, my immediate response is that they did not have me as a teacher. There is nothing wrong with history as an academic discipline, it is the way history is taught and transmitted that is the problem. Two teachers made a difference in my early life and, rightly or wrongly, made me follow the path of Clio. First, was a high school history teacher, Mediatrix Abaya, whom my classmates remember more for her size and the ripe pimples that gave character to her face. The class may have called her "Sebo" behind her back but we all liked her because she did not make us memorize dates, names and places. Instead, she encouraged us to understand why an event happened the way it did and made us see connections between events. She made us see our lives in the context of the past. That was the first time I enjoyed history in school.

In college I lived dangerously and sometimes chose teachers who would challenge me rather than give me a high grade for little effort. I enrolled in the class of Helen Tubangui whom everyone avoided because of her heavy reading list. She hardly smiled or showed emotion in class. Not a bad trait for someone who was a national bridge player. Ms Tubangui introduced me to primary sources. Although we had 12 units of Spanish in our curriculum, we were unable to read Spanish documents so she had us go through the 55-volume compilation of documents, "The Philippine Islands" by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson. The assignment had me browsing through the two-volume index in search of a research topic using the first letter of my surname. There was a mixed bag of topics under "O" but I don't remember now what I wrote for my paper.

Not content with a semester of torment, I enrolled in Ms Tubangui's Philippine history class the following semester and the primary source assignment had us going through the volumes that contain reports on the Philippines during the American period—the "Reports of the Philippine Commission," and the "Reports of the Governors General." To an undergrad student these volumes were more interesting than the "Blair and Robertson" because it had pictures, statistical tables and sometimes full transcripts of hearings. While cleaning out my files before the new year, I came across photocopies made for my classes under Ms Tubangui and I was surprised by the material I was reading then. For example, Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera was interviewed by the Philippine Cpmmission in 1899 and it has a description of the Rizal execution:

Pardo de Tavera: When Rizal came to Manila he was taken to Fort Santiago, and from there he was taken on foot to the open grounds, the Bagumbayan, adjoining the Luneta, where he was shot. Rizal went along, showing a great deal of self possession, and even smiling and laughing as he went along the street; not that he felt like laughing, but because he had a great deal of character and strength, and he wished to show that he could contain himself. When he fell dead, all of the Spaniards and the Spanish ladies who were present cried. *Viva España!*

Question: Was there a large crowd present?

A: Enormous. It was a Spanish national fiesta, and afterwards the band passed in front of his body playing "La Marcha de Cadiz," which was the custom.

Q: Was he the only man shot on that occasion?

A: On that day he was the only man to be shot, and public opinion demanded that four Indian (native) soldiers should be the ones who would shoot him.

Q: And that was done?

A: That was done. As a general thing, all executions were by Spanish soldiers, except this one of Rizal.

Q: Were executions generally made on the Luneta?

A: Always.

Q: Did they make it an occasion of rejoicing?

A: Yes, sir; it was always a reason for joy, for merriment. It must be said, however, that these people went there believing it was a just act; that these people who were shot were guilty. Although it seemed a barbarous thing to us, these people believed that what they saw was simply the carrying out of justice.

Q: Was it known beforehand when executions were to occur?

A: They knew this would happen from the evening before. Furthermore, it was the Spanish custom to give a condemned man 24 hours in which to be in the chapel at confession in order to arrange his matters for the future. Spanish justice is very indulgent in this respect.

Q: Was it habitual for the ladies and gentlemen to go see all these executions, or only occasionally.

A: Yes sir; in political executions.

Q: Then they were regarded as a spectacle?

A: Yes, sir; a spectacle for patriotic character.

Before the firing squad, executions were by garrote. Corpses were even left on the garrote a few hours for those who missed the actual execution. It was a gory sight. While we do not have public executions today, the thirst for blood and retribution remains. Every night on the TV news one can see bloodied corpses of suspected criminals shot by police or live suspects with their hands handcuffed behind their backs being slapped by angry victims. One wonders, after reading history, how much or how little we have changed in a century.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The presidency as an institution

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—The abrupt announcement by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not to run in 2004 stunned everyone, especially because we have assumed all along that she has been positioning herself for next year's elections, if only to reaffirm her mandate.

Not known to mince words, GMA alluded to "the poison in the air" that is so pervasive she thought, "If this would be the atmosphere under which I would rule, how would I chart the country toward a bright future?" Citing deep divisions in the nation, economic problems and the spate of political infighting that have plagued her administration, she now thinks her candidacy would only worsen the country's troubles. She intends to spend the remaining days of her presidency, she says, to help her successor achieve a "strong and modern society."

The presidency of any country is the most demanding, distressing, draining and debilitating job in the whole world. How's that for the presidency as the 4 Ds? Yes, and it's enough to kill you.

If it's any comfort to GMA, the American presidency, considered the most powerful job on earth, has operated for more than 200 years now within a political context that scholars have described as "permanent crisis." Worse, it has meant the assassination of two of the most famous US presidents—Lincoln and Kennedy—and the disgraceful resignation and impeachment of Nixon and Clinton, respectively, in more recent times.

As powerful as the job seems to be, it's close to an impossible one, and sitting presidents must often rely on their wits and powers of persuasion to achieve their goals. In the end, they are often lonely and isolated, fading into obscurity and forgotten by history.

When you come right down to it, much of this impossibility attending the job springs from the distrust or ambivalence that people have of any president. On the one hand, we want a strong leader with the authority and ability to make quick decisions. On the other hand, we are disdainful or cautious of vesting too much power in a president or head of state.

To recall a bit of American government, after which ours was patterned, a deep distrust of "executive power" shaped the philosophy of the Articles of Confederation of the original 13 colonies. The tyrannical rule of King George III convinced the Confederation framers to create a national mechanism that had a legislature, but not an "independent executive." Without such an executive leader, the emergence of an "American tyrant" would be precluded.

Consequently, first US president George Washington stepped down after two terms, thus allaying fears of creating "executive tyranny." He could have become the first American dictator, but he set the tone for democratic governance as a model for future presidents.

Of course, dramatic changes have reshaped the institution over time. The powers of the presidency have grown, with internal factors giving presidents as much leeway as they wish. External factors have likewise grown, particularly the expectations of interest groups and various constituencies, which have constrained the presidency. Thus, the ultimate test for any president has been to set the balance between empowerment and the constraining forces on the institution. Any president must often face a "damned-if you-do and damned-if you-don't situation" in this delicate balancing act.

"Dynamics of Democracy" authors Squire and Lindsay et al. have analyzed various competing paradigms of presidential power. These range from William Taft's "restricted model," which constructs such power narrowly, to Theodore Roosevelt's more expansive "stewardship model," which argues that since presidents alone represent the nation, they have the duty to act as "stewards of the national interest."

But it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who is credited with the "advent of the modern presidency" in the 1930s. When FDR was first elected in 1933, the Great Depression spawned much poverty and loss of faith in government. People were willing to accept not only a strong but also authoritarian leadership. And FDR rose to the occasion with a "take-charge" presidential style, and a bold and extensive legislative agenda to restore faith in government and revive the economy. Thus, he established the presidency as the pre-eminent institution for "strong policy leadership." Squire and Lindsay et al. conclude that all of FDR's successors, from Truman to Clinton, either "have felt compelled to follow the example he set of active national leadership, or have known that they would be measured against it."

Of course, Clinton went overboard on a number of fronts, and the current president George W. Bush, with his obsessiveness, is bound to become a class unto himself.

Where and when and how do we begin to repair our perpetually impaired Philippine presidency? We aren't going to have another "people power" again, are we? Part of GMA's frustration is that the country is not or has not united, and that the post-2004 government will merely end up inheriting a deeply divided country.

This is true as we are indeed a very fractious society. And politics, our favorite national pastime, exacerbates this fractiousness and militates against unity. Whoever coined the term "crab mentality" as our basic approach to power was being mild. It's more of an "attack dog mentality." Politics often plays out in relentless ways. The late novelist John Steinbeck once said that, "we give the President more work that a man can do.... we abuse him often and rarely praise him. We wear him out, use him up, eat him up.... He is ours and we exercise the right to destroy him." GMA and other presidents can certainly appreciate this remark.

Also, we always tend to focus on the presidency because it's the most visible institution. And because of the persistent paradox cited earlier: on the one hand, it's always too powerful, if corrupt; on the other, it's always too weak. Presidents are seldom able to keep the promises they make.

What a sad commentary so early in the New Year. Sometimes you begin to wonder if the presidency anywhere in the world is tailored for someone who does not exist.

Belinda A. Aquino teaches Political Science and directs Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

Not getting the point

SOME people just don't seem to get it. Our President made the supreme sacrifice to give up being a presidential contender in the 2004 elections to end the bitter politicking that has gotten out of hand and that is standing in the way of effective governance. This means that all kinds of politicking (read: mudslinging) must be set aside so that everybody including the opposition, can work together to solve the problems besetting our country and lift our people out of misery.

So, just when we thought that finally, we can put politicking behind us and we could all buckle down to work, we get screaming headlines of who could be the presidential candidate of the ruling party in an election that is one and a half years away.

For God's sake, give us a break! We, the citizenry are sick and tired of politicking. We want all public officials, elected or otherwise, who are being paid by hard-earned taxpayers' money to shut up and work, work, work and get things done. We also want the media to give politicking news a rest. Please, just focus on what is being done to solve our country's problems and make our lives better. We don't want to know and we don't care to know what all those dirty *trapos* are up to, to further their political ambitions. The truth is, these goings-on disgust us, ruin our day and make us retch. So, enough already.

Finally, to all those thick-skulled politicians who don't get the point that politicking must stop at this time to save our country from the rut it is in and insist on politicking, will be shown for what they really are— dirty *trapos* who cannot put their political ambitions on hold for the sake of the country. We will remember not to vote for them not only in the 2004 elections but in all elections after that.

—ANDIE C. LASALA,
executive director,
Konsyensyang Pilipino,
265-C Katipunan Ave.,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Greatest Filipino President yet

IF President Macapagal-Arroyo sticks to her decision not to run for President in 2004, she has the chance of becoming the Philippines' greatest President.

First, she can devote all her time to her macro and micro economic programs guided only by what is best for the country since she will not be currying favor for the 2004 election.

Second, she can minimize graft and corruption by making people both in the government and the private sector immediately accountable for their acts since she will not have any fear of displeasing powerful politicians including those from her party. I am sure she knows that immediate accountability is the key to any good government. Without immediate accountability there can be no effective government.

Third, if she intends to show sincerity in her various pronouncements, she should start anew by an honest to goodness re-shuffle of her Cabinet, appointing highly qualified people from all sectors/political parties and not just her close friends and partymates.

Fourth, if she intends to heal the prevailing divisiveness in our country, she should be more tolerant and humane of perceived enemies like:

Former President Erap Estrada—He deserves more respect and consideration befitting a former head of state. His popularity has not really waned.

Prof. Nur Misuari and other Muslim rebels—They too deserve consideration for they fought for what they firmly believed as legitimate aspirations. Human rights violations among suspected rebels should be avoided because for every innocent Muslim killed or hurt, their children become potential lifelong fighters for the separatist movement.

The Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army—Delist them from terrorist organizations and instead efforts should be made to let them come back to the negotiating table.

Last but not the least, she should uphold at all cost the sanctity of the ballot, leveling the playing field for all presidential candidates including that of her Lakas official candidate.

If she can do all these things, she will be the greatest Filipino President yet.

—DR. OMBRA A. TAMANO, MNSA,
1-C Don Damaso St.,
Barangay Holy Spirit,
Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Uninformed criticism

THIS is about Rhoz Venalez's letter which criticized Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's reaction to President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to withdraw form the 2004 presidential race.

It is unfortunate that the letter-sender apparently failed to read the complete statement of Oreta, who was among the first to praise Ms Macapagal for her act of statesmanship. In fact, the senator had expressed hope that Ms Macapagal's decision would give her the "second wind" to implement over the next 18 months far-reaching reforms aimed at creating more jobs, fighting official corruption, reviving the economy and attacking poverty.

The bitterness displayed in the letter is what President Macapagal wants us to abandon as a people, so we could finally forge a united front to confront the problems hounding our nation, which was polarized by Edsa II.

We hope the letter-sender would find the courage to shun this "us or them" mentality. This kind of attitude makes a mockery of the call of President Macapagal for all of us to stop the kind of politicking that has divided our people.

We believe that Oreta, with many of her opposition colleagues in Congress, have responded positively to the example set by President Macapagal in putting divisive politics in the backburner for the remainder of her term. It is time for her allies to do the same instead of stoking further the flames of disunity that we all want to put behind us.

—BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN,
chief of staff for political affairs,
Office of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Rm. 516, GSIS Bldg.,
Financial Center, Roxas
Boulevard, Pasay City

What did blasting the Marcos bust achieve?

CONRADO de Quiros hit the nail on the head in his "Postscript to an iniquity." (PDI, 1/6/03) The logic behind the blasting of the Marcos bust was as twisted as it was foolish.

What did the blasting achieve? Deface the bust to erase the Marcos regime's ugly legacy? Come on! If the Germans had incinerated the concentration camps and gas chambers, would they and the rest of the world forget about the Holocaust? I think not. It took place and is indelibly ingrained in the hearts and the minds of many people, especially those who experienced and survived it. This is how martial law is to many of us Filipinos. It was a nightmarish experience that still haunts us, a hideous chapter in our history that refuses to be forgotten. Yet, being ashamed of or angry about it is a futility; we have no reason to blast to smithereens every grim reminder of the event (or of any abominable occurrence in our history, for that matter) because we are not the ones who carried out the schemes and whims of the dictator. Rather, we are the people who endured it, resisted against it and overthrew it.

What the self-confessed perpetrators of the blasting should do is to help the country overcome the economic disaster and the political divisiveness caused by opportunistic scoundrels, both present and past. Waging battle in the countryside based on ideological precepts do more harm to us than any kind of atrocity; and this battle is not being recorded in our history, alas, not even a footnote. Two sets of ideologies and two colors of politics constantly clash in our country's peripheries at the expense of the livelihood and lives of many Filipinos.

—ABIGAIL V. FLORES,
San Juan Baño,
Arayat, Pampanga

Davao judge's murder still unsolved

LAST April 2002, Judge Eugenio Valles was shot while jogging along the National Friendship Highway at Nabunturan Comval, Davao. Investigations were made by the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, but until now the two agencies have not come up with positive results.

This is quite disturbing, because the failure of our law enforcers to solve such heinous crime as murder, may create a negative perception that assassins can mow down judges with ease and impunity. I have two death threats now. While I consider this as part of the hazards of the profession, something must be done. At stake is the independence and integrity of the court.

The situation now is too encouraging. Last week, an assistant provincial prosecutor of Tagum City was felled by an assassin's bullet on his way home from office. He was handling a sensational case. The other day a lawyer was shot in broad daylight. How the law enforcers will handle the investigation remains a speculation in light of the unsolved murder of Judge Valles.

The peace and order situation in Davao is the lynchpin for economic growth in the region. Our local officials are very uncompromising especially on matters involving the security of government functionaries. The public is not expecting too much except that law enforcers should not be complacent. The public will appreciate very much the sincerity of the efforts of those responsible for seeing to it that Davao is the safest place for tourist destination.

—ERASTO D. SALCEDO,
executive judge, RTC,
Branch 31, Tagum City

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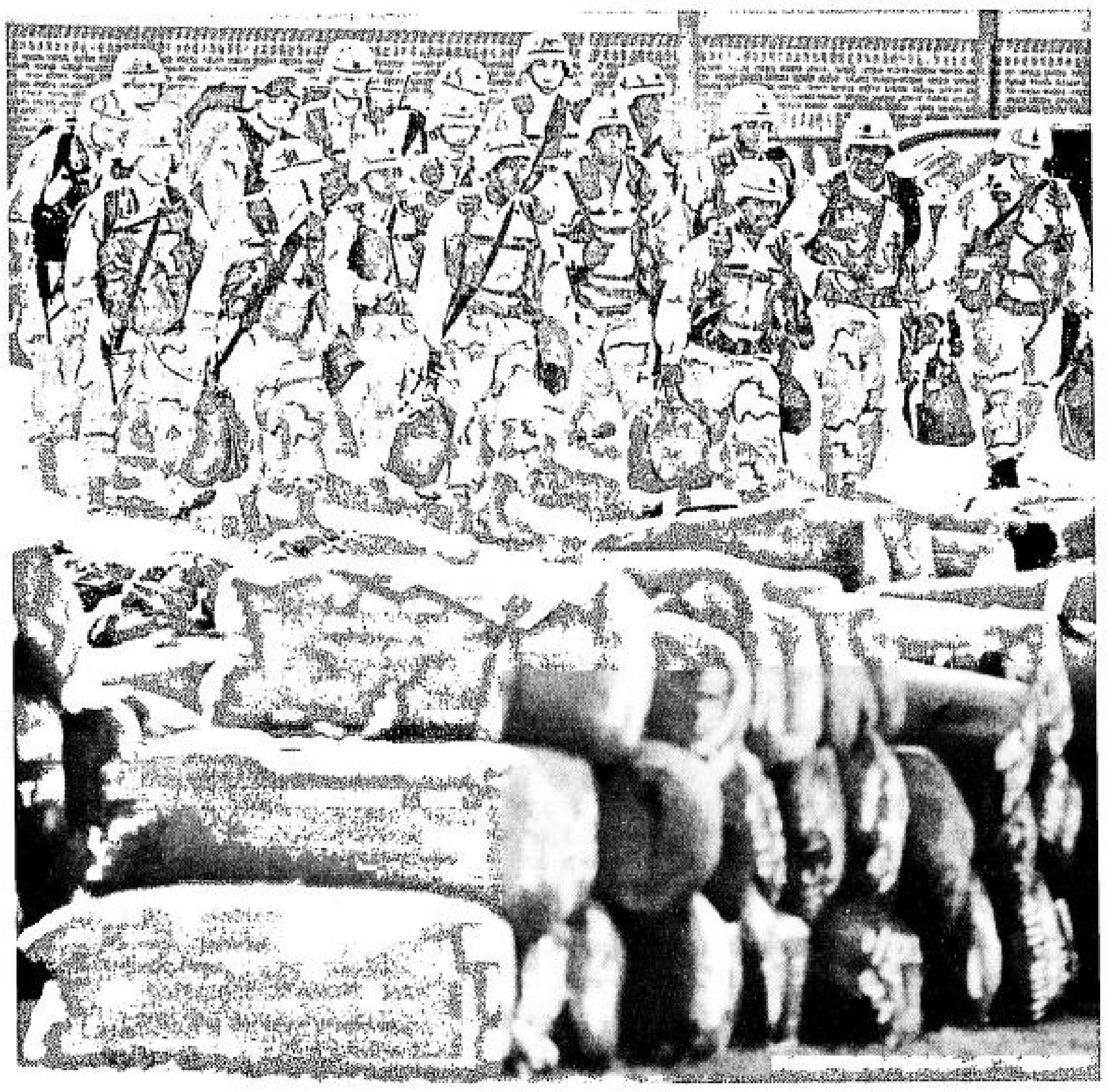
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Nothing suspicious in Iraq so far–IAEA



MEMBERS of the US Army's Third Brigade, Third Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, prepare for deployment on Jan. 6. Three hundred soldiers at Fort Benning are being deployed to Kuwait. REUTERS

VIENNA—The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog agency said on Monday its inspectors had found nothing suspicious in Iraq so far, but added that it was too early to draw conclusions.

"We haven't yet seen any smoking gun yet, if you like, that Iraq has lied in its declaration on the nuclear issue," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei said in an exclusive interview.

"But we're still very much in the process of an inspection and it's too early for us to come to any conclusion," he said.

"So far the results (of laboratory tests of samples taken in Iraq) have not raised any eyebrows."

ElBaradei is responsible for IAEA inspectors who are in Iraq to check for any signs of clandestine atomic weapons programs.

Other inspectors, from the UN Monitoring, Inspection and Verification Commission (Unmovic), are probing for possible signs of any biological or chemical arms development.

Last month Iraq delivered a 12,000-page declaration of its weapons programs to the UN Security Council. A number of countries, including the United States, have accused Iraq of lying in this massive dossier.

If it were proved Iraq had lied, it could help provide the United States with justification for taking military action to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime.

ElBaradei also said his agency needed more nuclear intelligence from UN member states to help his inspectors hunt for evidence of Iraq's alleged secret nuclear weapons program.

"We've started to get some intelligence but not as much as we'd like to see. I hope in the next few weeks we will get some more," he said.

"We have not really got much actionable intelligence information and I'd like to see more for our inspectors to be able to proceed effectively."

He declined to say which countries had given intelligence.

ElBaradei said that he would be giving the Security Council a status report on Iraq on Thursday, when he and chief inspector Hans Blix, whose Unmovic team is hunting for biological, chemical and ballistic weapons in Iraq, brief the Council.

"We will report where we are today, what we will do in the next few weeks, some of the progress we have made in verifying some of the information we have received, some of our analysis of the (Iraqi) report," he said.

"But you will have to wait for our report on Jan. 27 for a comprehensive analysis of our work so far."

In Washington, the United States Monday rejected an accusation of espionage from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as US and British troops marshaled for a possible war.

President George W. Bush said the Iraqi leader's accusation, taken with what Washington charges is his incomplete weapons declaration to the UN, sent a discouraging signal.

"That was an interesting statement on his part and when you combine that with the fact that his declaration was clearly deficient it's discouraging news for those of us who want to resolve this issue peacefully," said Bush, who has pledged to disarm Iraq by force if necessary.

The accusation also brought a prompt denial from UN arms inspectors in Iraq, now in their sixth week of an intensive search for banned weapons.

"All I can say is that the inspectors are not spies. We are doing our job professionally, objectively, and the best we can," said inspection team spokesperson Hiro Ueki.

In a sharp escalation of the war of words over disarmament, Saddam had earlier accused UN arms inspectors combing his country in search of alleged weapons of mass destruction of really being engaged in "intelligence activity."

The accusation came in a televised speech to mark the country's Armed Forces Day in which Saddam also charged the United States of plotting to occupy the oil-rich Gulf after his ouster.

Reuters, AFP

Palestinian suicide blasts draw Israeli punishment

JERUSALEM—Israel barred Palestinians on Monday from attending talks on peace and administrative reform in London, in anger over twin suicide bombings that killed 22 people this week.

Israel's refusal to heed a plea by Britain, which is sponsoring the Jan. 14 talks between Palestinian officials and international mediators, to overturn the ban sparked a dispute with London.

More than 100 people were wounded in the Tel Aviv blasts which ripped through a crowded pedestrian mall in a foreign workers' neighborhood on Sunday. At least 14 Israelis and six foreigners were among the dead.

"We are again witnessing a wave of terrible terrorism," Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told reporters as he visited the wounded. "When we end the terror we will sit to talk peace.

But the first thing to be done is to put an end to terror."

Hours later, Israeli armor backed by helicopters briefly rolled into the al-Maghazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, killing two Palestinians including a gunman who had joined resistance to the advance, witnesses and medics said.

The purpose of the raid was not immediately clear, though such incursions have become frequent in a 27-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said in Gaza City Tuesday that Israel had issued orders to stop Palestinians under the age of 35 leaving the territories and ministers moving between cities.

"Israel has taken a new decision preventing Palestinians under the age of 35 from leaving the Palestinian territories," Erakat said. Only children under four months old were to be allowed out, he said.

Erakat added that the restrictions also meant that Palestinian Authority ministers and senior officials could not move between Palestinian cities.

"This is new proof that Israel wants to destroy the Palestinian Authority," he said.

Erakat said that Israel was using a devastating double suicide bombing on Sunday, in which 22 people were killed, to implement its plan to smash the eight-year-old Palestinian Authority.

No Israeli officials were available to comment on the new measures, although a senior Palestinian security official in Rafah said that even women under 35 were being refused permission to cross into Egypt.

Earlier on Monday, hawkish Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sparred over the telephone with his British counterpart, Jack Straw, who condemned the bombings while voicing regret at the move to stymie the London conference.

Netanyahu, according to his office, told Straw Britain should adopt US President George W. Bush's position "that leaders compromised by terror cannot be partners for peace," an apparent reference to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Reuters, AFP

Story about 5 infiltrators fabricated, FBI concludes

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has concluded the tip that led to a nationwide hunt for five men suspected of infiltrating the United States on Christmas Eve was fabricated by an informant, ABC News reported Monday.

The informant, identified as Michael Hamdani, who was arrested in Canada in late October, created the story about 19 men who were seeking false passports in an attempt to get himself off the hook on criminal charges he was facing in the United States, said the television network, citing unnamed sources.

The FBI identified the men as Abid Noraiz Ali, Mustafa Khan Owasi, Iftikhar Khozmai Ali, Adil Pervez, Akbar Jamal and posted their pictures on its Web site.

The nationwide search was ordered by US President George W. Bush, who referred to the case as "serious." According to the story investigators originally got, the men entered the United States from Canada using phony British passports forged by a Pakistani smuggling ring, the report said.

The FBI discovered that the information about the infiltrators was a hoax during an interrogation of one of the members of the document ring in Pakistan, ABC News reported.

An FBI spokesperson refused to comment on the report. *AFP*

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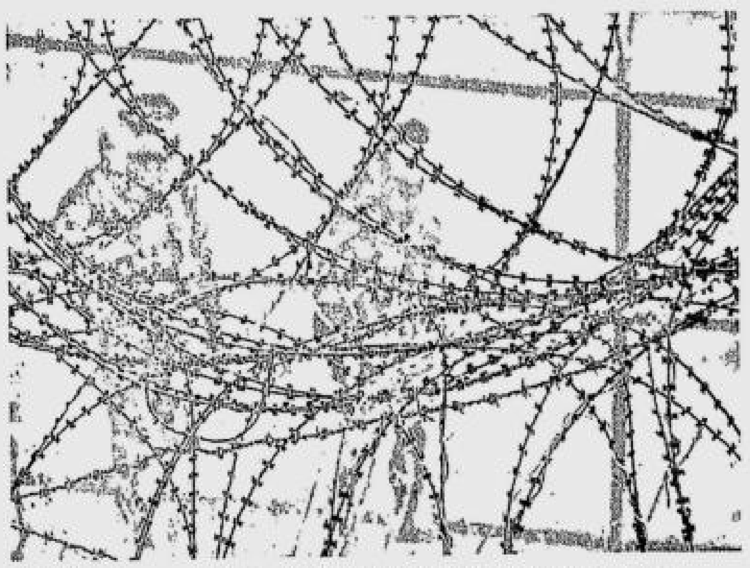
Economic sanctions would mean war–N. Korea



SOUTH Korean soldiers patrol inside the barbed-wire fence at the Imjingak Pavillion, north of Seoul, near the demilitarized zone of Panmunjom, South Korea, Jan. 7. The **DMZ** remains the most vivid symbol of the threat of war on the Korean peninsula, all the more pressing with international tension over North Korea's nuclear programs. AP

SEOUL—Communist North Korea said on Tuesday economic sanctions over its nuclear program would mean war and urged the United States to sit down and talk, just hours after Washington signaled that dialogue was still an option.

President George W. Bush, who has branded the communist state part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran, said on Monday he remained open to dialogue but White House officials said the North must first end efforts to develop atomic weapons.

Pyongyang's KCNA news agency denounced the United States' brief seizure last month of a shipload of North Korean missiles bound for Yemen, calling it "part of the US-tailored containment strategy against the DPRK (North Korea).

"The strategy means total economic sanctions aimed at isolating and stifling the DPRK," the agency said on Tuesday.

"Sanctions mean a war and the war knows no mercy. The US should opt for dialogue with the DPRK, not for war, clearly aware that it will have to pay a very high price for such reckless acts," KCNA added.

A South Korean presidential envoy headed to Washington on Tuesday in a fresh bid to defuse the crisis.

National security adviser Yim Sung-joon, was expected to suggest that the United States give North Korea security assurances and promises to resume energy supplies in return for the North abandoning its nuclear program.

The UN nuclear watchdog, meanwhile, gave Pyongyang a last chance to readmit inspectors expelled last week.

Meeting in Vienna the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) passed a resolution warning North Korea to cooperate with its inspectors or be reported to the UN Security Council for breaching nuclear safeguards.

A South Korean official said the international community backed the ultimatum from the IAEA.

"Basically, the IAEA's decision reflects the international community's unified voice and we hope that North Korea will take the message," said Kim Moon-hwan, from Seoul's foreign ministry.

Tension has risen on the Korean peninsula since late December when North Korea expelled the agency's inspectors and fired up a reactor mothballed in 1994 when it agreed to end such work in exchange for oil from the United States and its allies.

Washington insists that the North end its quest for nuclear weapons. A defiant Pyongyang countered with a demand that the United States, which keeps thousands of troops in the South, sign a nonaggression pact.

Bush said on Monday the United States would talk with North Korea but a White House official said dialogue could start only after the North dismantles its weapon programs.

"We'll have dialogue. We've had dialogue with North Korea," Bush told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

He did not elaborate on the kind of dialogue he envisaged but said the United States had no intention of invading North Korea.

Washington has previously ruled out immediate negotiations with North Korea while saying that low-level contacts continued through the North Korean UN mission in New York. *Reuters*

Chavez opponents take to streets again, vow to resist crackdown

CARACAS, Venezuela—Thousands of foes of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took to the streets again on Monday after the leftist leader threatened to punish striking opponents who have crippled the vital oil industry and who vow to resist a government crackdown.

Waving national flags and chanting "elections now," marchers swamped a highway in southwest Caracas to demand Chavez resign and hold an immediate election.

"We will stay on the streets . . . We're going to defeat this government with votes," anti-Chavez union leader Alfredo Ramos told reporters at the rally.

The bitter conflict between Chavez and his opponents has sharpened during the 5-week-old strike that has plunged the world's No. 5 oil exporter into political and economic turmoil.

Last week, clashes left two people dead and dozens wounded.

"We are on the brink of madness and we need to take a step backwards," Foreign Minister Roy Chaderton told reporters.

In the western city of Barquisimeto, foes and supporters of the president clashed on Monday, using slingshots and barrages of stones. No injuries were immediately reported.

Outside the attorney general's office in central Caracas, Chavez sympathizers clamored for an inquiry into the deaths of two government supporters who were shot on Friday in chaotic street battles involving police, troops and rival protesters.

Chavez has blamed the killings on police officers serving one of his fiercest enemies, Caracas Mayor Alfredo Pena. But the president's foes, who allege Chavez has armed his followers, accused pro-government militants of opening fire.

Opposition leaders, who say the former paratrooper has wrecked the economy through mismanagement and corruption, have vowed to step up protests to strengthen their strike that has strangled the nation's petroleum output and exports.

Chavez has appealed for calm, but he has lambasted the opposition strikers as terrorists and traitors. He also demanded punishment for rebel managers of the state oil giant PDVSA for what he said was sabotage of oil operations.

The president insisted the oil industry was being restored to normal by troops and loyal personnel. Strikers dismiss his claims and say it will take months for the sector to recover.

Elected by a landslide in 1998, Chavez has presented himself as the savior of the nation's poor by promoting left-leaning reforms. But his foes cast him as a dictator set on establishing Cuba-style communism in Venezuela. *Reuters*

China approves first flights between mainland and Taiwan

BEIJING—China has approved the first indirect charter flights by Taiwanese airlines to mainland China in over half a century to start late this month, state media said Tuesday.

Beijing approved an application by Taiwan's Far East Air Transport Corp. Friday and is processing requests from five more Taiwanese air carriers, the China Daily said, quoting a senior official with the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

All applications are due to be approved in the next few days, the official said.

"There seem to be no major problems with these applications except that some of them failed to provide all the paperwork requested," the official at the CAAC's Department of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs said.

"Their applications will be approved immediately once the relevant documents are provided." The flights will operate only around the time of the upcoming Spring Festival or Lunar New Year holiday, which begins on Feb. 1, and they will have to stop in Hong Kong or Macau to comply with Taiwanese government rules.

The flights are being organized to fly Taiwanese and their families working and living on the mainland home for the holiday.

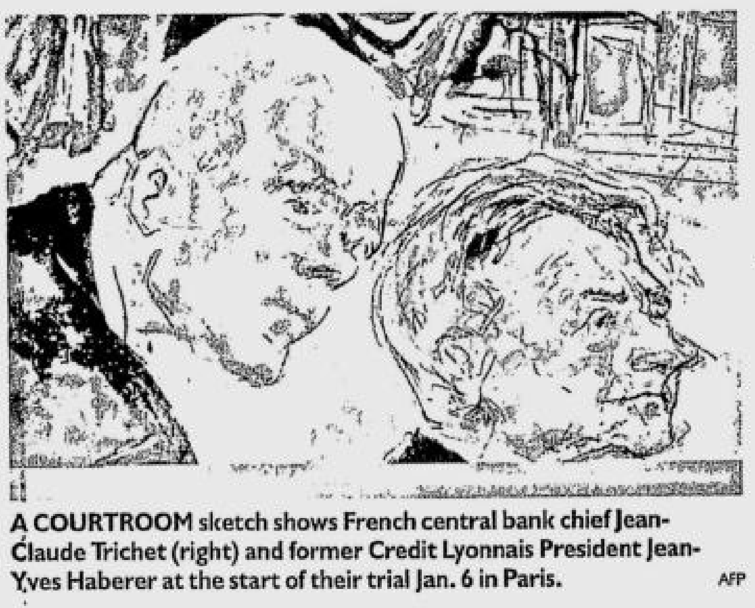
Far East Air Transport has scheduled six round-trip flights between the Chinese coastal city of Shanghai and the Taiwanese capital of Taipei via Hong Kong and Macau on Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 5-7.

The other five Taiwanese airlines which have submitted applications are China Airlines, Mandarin Airlines, EVA Airways Corp, TransAsia Airways and UNI Airways.

Some 1,500 Taiwanese business people and their family members have reportedly registered for the flights.

Taiwanese lawmaker John Chang of the main opposition Kuomintang (KMT), who proposed the flights, had urged direct flights between Taiwan and major mainland cities without stopovers—a suggestion supported by Chinese authorities.

Taiwan's cabinet on Dec. 4 approved the unprecedented chartered service between Jan. 26 and Feb. 10, but rejected direct flights. *AFP*



A COURTROOM sketch shows French central bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet (right) and former Credit Lyonnais President Jean-Yves Haberer at the start of their trial Jan. 6 in Paris. AFP

French central bank chief goes on trial

PARIS—French central bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet went on trial Monday on charges stemming from an accounting scandal at the formerly state-owned Credit Lyonnais, in a case that could keep him from becoming the next president of the European Central Bank (ECB).

The trial, which is to continue until mid-February, will be closely watched in the world of global finance, as its outcome could disrupt a delicate compromise reached to ensure a smooth transition at the influential ECB.

Trichet is accused of having overlooked false accounting reports concerning Credit Lyonnais in the early 1990s as the bank plunged towards near-collapse.

He is on trial with eight others, including former Bank of France governor Jacques de Larosiere—a heavyweight in financial circles, who served as both managing director of the International Monetary Fund and president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The allegations date from 1991, 1992 and the first half of 1993, when Trichet was treasury director at the French finance ministry and therefore responsible for state-owned enterprises such as Credit Lyonnais.

Trichet, 60, was placed under judicial investigation in April 2000 on suspicion of "spreading false information on the market and presenting and publishing inexact accounts" in the rescue of Credit Lyonnais.

But in May 1998, he had been promised the top job at the ECB, according to a verbal agreement among European heads of state and government.

The four-year-old financial institution, which sets monetary policy for the 12-nation euro zone, is the second most influential central bank after the US Federal Reserve.

In principle, Trichet is to replace Wim Duisenberg of the Netherlands, who has agreed to step down on July 9—three years ahead of schedule—to make way for a French ECB head.s *AFP*

Aussie doctor to unveil new death machine

SYDNEY—Australia's leading euthanasia advocate Dr. Philip Nitschke, who has helped several terminally ill people end their lives, will fly to the United States on Wednesday to unveil his latest death machine.

Nitschke will present his device, which allows a person to breath in pure carbon monoxide to hasten death, at the national euthanasia conference of The Hemlock Society USA in San Diego starting on Wednesday.

"It produces pure carbon monoxide for a person who is suffering and decides it is time to end the suffering. It will produce a peaceful death," Nitschke told Reuters on Tuesday.

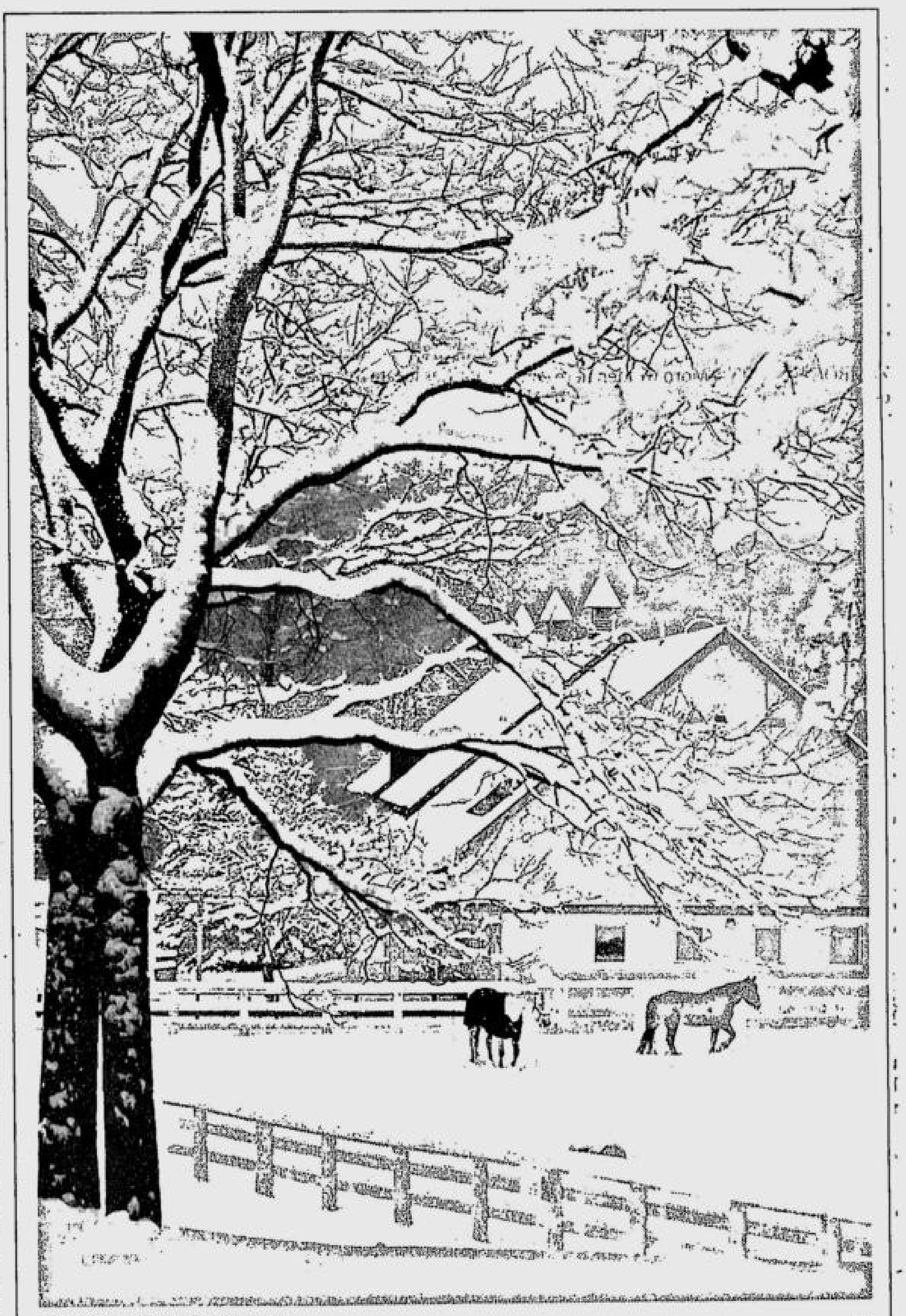
Nitschke said the unique aspect of the simple machine was that it could be used for therapeutic purposes, as it can also produce oxygen, and therefore could not be declared illegal.

"That was one of the design requirements," said Nitschke, who took a year to design and make the prototype machine with research funding from the American Hemlock Society.

"It will have a strong warning that if you put in different chemicals it will produce a peaceful death. So it just becomes a strategy, somewhat cynical, but a strategy nevertheless to frustrate any attempts at legislative control."

Nitschke gained international attention in 1997 when he assisted four ill patients to die in Australia's outback Northern Territory under the world's first voluntary euthanasia laws.

The four used a death machine invented by Nitschke that allowed them to administer a lethal injection via a computer. *Reuters*



TORONTO POSTCARD

POLICE horses walk through fresh snow at Sunnybrook Park in Toronto, Canada on Jan. 6. AP

Blacks, Latinos more likely to be picked up by US police

LOS ANGELES—Blacks and Latinos are more likely to be searched and arrested after being routinely stopped by Los Angeles police, a study showed Monday, raising the explosive specter of racial profiling here.

The data was collected by Los Angeles police in this racially and ethnically diverse city and released under new rules aimed at preventing racial discrimination by police officers.

The survey indicated that 38 percent of drivers stopped by police were Latino, while 33 percent were white, 18 percent black, five percent Asian and another five percent were identified by officers being of "other" races.

Of those pulled over, 23 percent of Latinos and 22 percent of blacks were asked to exit their car, compared with just seven percent of whites, four percent of Asians and eight percent of other races.

Among pedestrians, 42 percent of those stopped by Los Angeles Police department officers were Hispanic, 36 percent were black, 18 percent white, just two percent Asian and another two percent from other races.

And of those halted in the street, blacks and Latinos appeared most likely to be subjected to a body search, or patdown.

Forty-eight percent of all Latinos stopped by police were frisked by officers, compared to 47 percent of blacks, 25 percent of whites, 17 percent of Asians and 25 percent from other races.

According to 2000 census statistics, the city's population is 29.7 percent white, 46.5 percent Hispanic or Latino, 11.2 percent black and 10 percent Asian.

For more than a year, officers have been required to fill out a form for every traffic or pedestrian stop they initiate, recording the gender, age and "apparent descent" of each target, as well as other information.s *AFP*

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Olongapo drivers rally vs Clean Air Act

By Allan Macatuno, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

OLONGAPO CITY—Some 1,000 drivers and operators of public utility vehicles and tricycles here staged a protest rally in front of the Land Transportation Office on Tuesday to demand the suspension of the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

Jose Tolentino, president of the Olongapo City Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association Inc. (Octoda), said drivers and operators here should also be given enough time to comply with the law.

"There should be no discrimination. Tricycle drivers here will also suffer from that (Clean Air Act) moratorium. Drivers and operators outside Metro Manila should be treated equally," Tolentino said.

He was referring to the one-month suspension of the Metro Manila Development Authority's resolution phasing out two-stroke tricycles.

The LTO here charges P300 for the vehicle emission testing per vehicle despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's order lowering the fee to only P90 in LTO centers.

"We will be greatly affected by the proposed measure to require us to use cleaner four-stroke engines. We only use mixed oil and gasoline and we cannot do anything to prevent our vehicles from emitting pollutants," Tolentino said.

He said they would be forced to discard their vehicles if they would strictly comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

"The problem is that we don't have the money to buy new four-stroke tricycles. We have been paying so much for the maintenance of our vehicles and this law will surely burden us," he said.

Jesus Ma. Vitug, LTO Central Luzon director, had scheduled a dialogue with members and officials of Octoda and the Federation of Public Utility Transportation Services of Olongapo to discuss the provisions of the Clean Air Act, which calls for emission tests and the phasing out of two-stroke engines.

In Pampanga, the implementation of the mandatory vehicle emission tests in compliance with the Clean Air Act might take more than a year in Central Luzon's seven provinces.

This prospect loomed because there were only 25 private emission testing centers throughout the region while there were 489,422 registered motor vehicles as of November last year, said Vitug. ***With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

AN off-duty driver died but 32 passengers of this Auto bus bound for Tuguegarao City Monday midnight survived after falling from a 50-meter ravine in barangay Capintalan, Caranglan, Nueva Ecija. BEN MOSES EBREO

4 dead, 34 hurt in road mishaps in Leyte, Ecija, Batangas

FOUR persons died and 34 others were injured in three separate road accidents in Tacloban, Nueva Ecija and Batangas on Tuesday.

The driver and a passenger of an L-300 van drowned after their vehicle fell off from the San Juanico Bridge in Tacloban City at around 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

The driver, known only as "Bating" and the passenger, Pablo Mabini, 56, of Borongan, Eastern Samar, failed to get out of the vehicle when it plunged about 15 meters from the bridge into the sea.

In Nueva Ecija, an off-duty driver of Auto bus who hitched a ride with the ill-fated bus, was killed while 23 others were hurt Tuesday morning when a Cagayan-bound bus plunged into a 180-foot deep ravine in Barangay Capintalan, Caranglan.

Killed instantly was Peregrino Capalungan, a resident of Tuguegarao City. His body was pinned in the front section of the bus and was retrieved at about 3 a.m. after rescuers used acetylene torch, said Freddy Velasquez of the Funeraria Ilagan in San Jose City.

On their way home to Manila from a medical mission in Bicol, a man was killed and his eight passengers were seriously injured when their van collided head-on with a trailer truck along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay San Miguel, Sto. Tomas, Batangas at 4 a.m., Tuesday.

Pronounced dead on arrival at the St. Cabrini Hospital in Sto. Tomas was the green Hyundai van driver Rodrigo Balana, 52, a resident of Marikina City. PO2 Erwin Dimaculangan, officer on case, said Balana died of massive blood loss.

The survivors in the San Juanico accident were Imee Raagas, 28, a *balikbayan* from New York; Myra Garcia, 28, Mabini's daughter and a cousin of Raagas; and Leo Oreta, 24, the assistant driver; all of Borongan.

They were taken to a private hospital here for treatment of minor injuries.

Policemen and bridge workers rescued the survivors who were able to get out of the vehicle and swim.

The vehicle left Borongan early yesterday morning and was reportedly trying to catch the plane flight for Manila here yesterday afternoon.

The brakes reported failed when the van skidded towards the railing and fell into the sea.

In Nueva Ecija, passengers Melecio Aganga and Tito David Barcellana of Ilagan, Isabela, were seriously hurt and taken to a hospital in Cabanatuan City.

Police said the bus was negotiating a sharp curve, 3 kilometer from Dalton Pass, when the driver, Almario Hernandez, 37, overtook a car but lost control of the steering wheel.

Reports said the bus hit the highway's concrete railing and plunged into the ravine.

Hernandez surrendered to the San Jose police.

"Their van was a total wreck," Dimaculangan said, "and Linda, the woman beside him, is still in critical condition at the hospital. Both her arms have been severed."

Linda Balana, 50, and seven others are still in the hospital while the corpse of Rodrigo had been taken to Vilma Funeraria in Tanauan City.

Being treated at the hospital were Elaine Eugenio, 18, Emily Eugenio, 11 and Victoria Bata, 77, and Estrella Alfaro, 45, residents of Pasig City; Ruth Balana, 17, and Josefina Villan, 55, both residents of Marikina City; and Felipa Basi, 53, a resident of Bacacay, Albay.

Ruth Balana had been declared out of danger by yesterday afternoon while all the others were still under observation.

Initial investigation by the Sto. Tomas police showed that the driver could have accelerated the van's speed as it approached the blind curve along the Maharlika Highway, and overtaken the vehicle ahead and collided head-on with the trailer truck from the opposite direction. ***Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau; Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Ben Moses Ebreo and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Moro group denounces mutilation of soldier's wife

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Moro women here condemned the mutilation of 19-year-old Tausug woman, Sawiya Sanob, wife of Army Sgt. Agustin Sulleza.

Amirah Lidasan, secretary general of the Moro, Christian People's Alliance (MCPA), described the killing as "domestic homicide and an outright insult to Moro women and to all women in general."

Sanob's mutilated body was discovered buried behind the house of Dionesa Sulleza, mother-in-law of the victim, in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo on Monday morning.

Her body parts were placed inside a foot-wide and four-foot deep hole covered with bamboo slats. Authorities in Sta. Barbara believed that Sanob's husband, Sgt. Sulleza, was behind the killing.

Lidasan said the military's Southern Command officials should take an active role in locating the suspect.

In Iloilo City, the police have asked the help of the Philippine Army in locating Sulleza.

Chief Insp. Eugenio Espejo, police chief of Sta. Barbara, said they requested the Army's 3rd Infantry Division based in Jamindan, Capiz to coordinate with the 14th Infantry Battalion in Zamboanga City in locating Sulleza.

The soldier is a member of the elite Special Forces. He had participated in the Balikatan joint military exercises with American troops last year, said Espejo.

"Based on our findings so far, we believed there was a 99 percent probability that he killed his wife," Espejo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But he said they still could not establish the motive of the killing.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, 1st Tabak Division chief, said if there would be a warrant for Sulleza's arrest, "we are going to help the authorities locate this man."

But Southern Command chief Lt. General Narciso Abaya said personnel involved in domestic problems, "is not our main concern at the Southern Command."

"We focus on operation, anything about administrative or domestic is not anymore our responsibility here," Abaya said.

Col. Alexander Yapching, Task Force Zamboanga chief, said he will inform the Special Forces Regiment regarding Sulleza's case. "I will do my best to locate this Sulleza."

On the other hand, Maj. Donato San Juan, commander of the 1st Special Forces Battalion based in Barangay Recodo here, said he has already informed all the companies under him to locate Sulleza.

He said Sulleza was a bemedaled officer and was deployed at the 38th Special Forces Company based in Olutanga, Zamboanga del Sur.

Sulleza, San Juan said, was last seen in July 2002.

"He went (on) Awol (Absence without leave) and was already discharged last August 2002," he said.

Espejo said "we are still looking for witnesses who could shed light on what happened."

Sanob, a resident of Tuboran town in Basilan, arrived with Augustin in Barangay Camambugan, about five kilometers from the town proper, in November.

Augustin introduced Sanob as his wife to his mother. Agustin, who is married to another woman with whom he has three children in Bukidnon, reportedly converted to Islam before marrying Sanob, Espejo said quoting Dionesia.

Old farmers picket DENR office, want land titles before they die

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 53 men and women farmers from Pampanga, mostly in their 70s, picketed the Central Luzon office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here on Tuesday as their claims for land titles entered the 30th year this year.

The case of the farmers from Barangay Maquiapo in Guagua town could be one of the longest running unresolved agrarian cases in the region, according to William Sinque, barangay agrarian reform council chair.

The land titles were not released because the Department of Agrarian Reform and the DENR had not been coordinating on the case, said Ruben Guevarra, leader of the Maquiapo farmers.

"Agrarian reform has been so slow and we want our land titles before we die," Guevarra, 64, told the INQUIRER.

Carlos Arida, chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Pampanga, agreed.

"This is a case that dragged because of the jurisdiction issue (between the two agencies)," Arida said.

Sinque said the DAR placed the Morales-Layug estate covering parts of Guagua, Lubao and Floridablanca towns under the land reform program in 1973.

The DAR, he said, only gave them Certificate of Land Transfer (CLT) numbers for at least 60 hectares in Guagua.

He said no CLT titles could be issued because the estate, said to have originally spanned some 2,000 hectares, was not a registered private property.

Since it was classified as an alienable and disposable land or government-owned, Arida said the DAR in 1998 passed the jurisdiction of the case over to the DENR.

The farmers, he recalled, applied for patents over the land in a bid to own these.

This, Arida noted, triggered the land dispute between the farmers and the heirs of the Morales-Layug clan who he said has "no substantial proof of evidence of ownership."

According to him, the farmers and their parents had long occupied and tilled the land for more than 50 years.

The DENR in July last year issued an order favoring the claims of the 53 farmers on at least 91 titles. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

January 2, 2003

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 1-2003

SUBJECT : Implementing Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8424, Otherwise Known as the Tax Reform Act of 1997, and Other Pertinent Provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as last Amended by Republic Act No. 9010, Imposing Value-Added Tax (VAT) on Sale of Services by Persons Engaged in the Practice of Profession or Calling and Professional Services Rendered by General Professional Partnerships; Services Rendered by Actors, Actresses, Talents, Singers and Emcees; Radio and Television Broadcasters and Choreographers; Musical, Radio, Movie, Television and Stage Directors; and Professional Athletes, as Well as Services Rendered by Customs, Real Estate, Stock, Immigration and Commercial Brokers, beginning January 1, 2003.

TO : All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned

SECTION 1. SCOPE .- Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 244 and 108 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, in relation to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8424, as last amended by Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9010, these Regulations are hereby promulgated to govern the imposition of value-added tax on sale of services by persons engaged in the practice of profession or calling and professional services rendered by general professional partnerships; services rendered by actors, actresses, talents, singers and emcees; radio and television broadcasters and choreographers; musical, radio, movie, television and stage directors; and professional athletes, as well as services rendered by customs, real estate, stock, immigration and commercial brokers.

SEC. 2. COVERAGE.- Beginning January 1, 2003, general professional partnerships, professionals, brokers and other persons enumerated under Section 1 hereof shall be governed by the provisions of Revenue Regulations No. 7-95, as amended, otherwise known as the "Consolidated Value-Added Tax Regulations". *Provided,* however, that for purposes of these Regulations, a professional partnership shall be treated as a separate and distinct taxable person from the individual partners composing the partnership. *Provided, further,* that all gross receipts from sales of services rendered by the partners for and in the name of the partnership shall entirely be taxable against the partnership. *Provided, finally,* that sales of services made by any of the partners thereof in his personal and individual capacity shall not be attributed to the partnership but shall rather be taxable against such partner in his individual capacity.

SEC. 3. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS. – During the transition, the following guidelines shall be followed:

a. **Registration** – Affected taxpayers are required to register as VAT taxpayers not later than January 31, 2003 without penalty.

b. **Unused receipts** – Taxpayers who change status from NON-VAT to VAT as a result of the lapse of effectivity of RA 9010 should submit on or before January 31, 2003 an inventory of unused receipts as of December 31, 2002 indicating the number of booklets and the corresponding serial numbers. Unused NON-VAT receipts shall be allowed for use in transactions subject to VAT provided the phrase "VAT-registered as of ___________" is stamped on all copies thereof. These receipts with the proper stamp shall be allowed for use in transactions subject to VAT until June 30, 2003.

c. **Billed but uncollected sale of services** – Amounts due on sale of services rendered on or before December 31, 2002 and becoming liable to VAT starting January 1, 2003 payments of which are due on or after that date shall be considered accrued as of December 31, 2002 for the purpose of VAT-exemption and payment of any applicable percentage tax, subject to the following conditions;

1. An information return shall be filed showing the name/s of the contractee/s, client/s, customer/s, and the amount/s of the contract price outstanding as of December 31, 2002, and containing a declaration to pay the applicable percentage tax due, if any;
2. The seller billed the unpaid amount not later than December 31, 2002 and a copy of such billing is attached to the information return required in (1) hereof;
3. The seller has recorded in its books of accounts for the year 2002 the amount receivable;
4. The seller issued or should issue non-VAT invoice and/or receipt to the buyer for this purpose; and
5. The seller files not later than January 20, 2003 or on or before the 20th day of the next month, depending upon the month of collection of the consideration, the regular percentage tax return for the payment of the percentage tax on payments received after 2002 (applicable to brokers only).

Failure to comply with the above-stated conditions shall automatically subject the gross receipts to value-added tax.

d. **Transitional input tax credits** – For goods (other than capital goods), materials or supplies not for sale but purchased for use in business in their present condition which are not intended for further processing and are on hand on December 31, 2002, a presumptive input tax equivalent to 8% of the value thereof, or the actual value-added tax paid on such goods, materials and/or supplies, whichever is higher, shall be allowed. For this purpose, an inventory as of December 31, 2002 of such goods, materials and/or supplies showing the quantity, description and value should be filed with the RDO not later than January 31, 2003. In recognizing presumptive input tax as of December 31, 2002, a journal entry should be made in the books debiting the input tax account and crediting the aforementioned asset accounts. *Provided,* however, that this paragraph does not apply to brokers.

In the case of brokers, any input tax outstanding in their books as corroborated by their VAT returns as of December 31, 1999 and still unused as of December 31, 2002 shall be allowed as transitional input tax.

SEC. 4. REPEALING CLAUSE.- Any revenue issuance inconsistent herewith is hereby amended, revoked, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.- These Regulations shall take effect beginning January 1, 2003.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Fuel prices up as 3 depots in Maguindanao close

By Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The recent closure of three oil depots in Parang, Maguindanao has resulted to an increase by at least P1.22 per liter, the highest pump price of fuel in this city and in Central Mindanao.

Motorists and operators of public utility vehicles complained that instead of implementing the new price increase of 49 cents per liter that took effect on Jan. 3, Petron and Shell gas stations here started selling fuel products on Saturday with a P1.22 mark up, the highest in the country.

Brahim Maliam, president of the Cotabato City Gas Dealers Association, said the huge mark-up was a result of the "hauling fee" that is being charged to them by delivery trucks from Davao City following the closure last month of the three oil depots in Parang, Maguindanao.

He said based on his own computation, he has to impose an 84-centavo additional mark-up on top of the Energy Regulatory Board approved increase of 49 cents per liter.

Maliam said in an interview over Radio Mindanao Network that instead of charging P1.33 increase per liter, he settled for a P1.30 hike. He runs a Petron gas station here.

Other Petron and Shell gas dealers here told the INQUIRER that their new mark up price had been fixed at P1.22 per liter. Special gas is sold at P20.72; regular, P19.22; and diesel, P16.59/liter.

The closure of a depot by Caltex Philippines on Dec. 18 due to alleged security threat from a terrorist group, prompted Petron and Shell depots in Parang to also shut down, Parang Mayor Vivencio Bataga said.

The mayor doubted security as the basis for Caltex's closure, saying "the reason was too shallow to (be) believed."

"These oil companies did not even close during the height of the Moro rebellion in Mindanao, and why just now?" he asked.

Bataga said the two other oil depots could not operate without Caltex which allowed the use of its pipeline everytime there is an oil delivery from the sea.

Virgilio Leyretana, deputy presidential assistant for Mindanao, had already informed Malacañang about the problem and asked that Caltex allow the lease of its pipeline to the two other oil firms so fuel prices in its service areas could be normalized.

Prices of fuel by some gas dealers in Maguindanao, Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat have also gone up by more than P49 after the Parang oil depots ceased to operate.

The depots get their supply from the cities of Davao and General Santos.

"The poor people of Cotabato and others who are dependent on the fuel supply from Parang would continue to suffer the high cost of oil unless the (administration) of President Macapagal-Arroyo act swiftly to have these oil depots resume operation," lawyer Wilfrido Bueno said.

US troops to arrive Jan. 14

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 50 American soldiers will start arriving here on Jan. 14 to train Filipino soldiers.

Maj. Eliseo Campued, one of the trainors in the Balikatan Exercises 02-1 last year, said their American counterparts will arrive here in time for next month's formal opening of the "Long-term Security Assistance Program" which will last until December.

The training would involve two Light Reaction Companies, four Light Infantry Battalions and a number of Air Force helicopter pilots.

The training for the Light Infantry Battalions will be held in Barangay San Roque here.

"We are not going to use the former training sites," Campued said referring to Barangays Limpapa and La Paz here and in various sites in Basilan.

He said the 10th and 32nd Infantry Battalion based in Basilan, the 55th Infantry Battalion in Sulu and another from the Marine Forces South will compose the four Light Infantry Battalions.

"This is not plain training, this is a training and equipping of our troops," said Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

He said the soldiers will "receive" night vision goggles, secured radio and navigational equipment and modified M16 rifles.

Abaya earlier said the long-term security assistance program has a budget of about $30 million.

He said the trainings for the Light Reaction Companies will be in Fort Magsaysay while the night-flying for the Air Force pilots will be done in Benito Ebuen Airbase in Mactan, Cebu City.

700 DPWH casual employees face dismissal

LEGAZPI CITY—More than 700 casual employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) offices in Bicol are facing dismissal this year due to budgetary constraints, according to Danilo Manalang, assistant regional director.

Manalang said the DPWH central office has informed them of the problem since December last year. This, he added, might prompt them to send their casual employees on forced leave.

In the regional office alone, about 264 employees on casual status will not be spared by the tight-belting measure.

"This year's budget is mainly for our foreign-assisted projects and we cannot afford to use it for other activities or projects," he said.

Manalang lamented that the DPWH regional office is allotted only P1.43 billion as its annual budget for this year, lower than last year's P1.663 billion.

He clarified that P701 million of the amount is appropriated for foreign-assisted projects in the entire region for this year.

The amount, according to him, is not even enough since they still have a deficit of 14 percent from last year's foreign-assisted projects.

Manalang's statement was supported by DPWH regional planning officer Eduardo Talastas, saying that this year is really dim for their casual employees as their hiring also depends on projects.

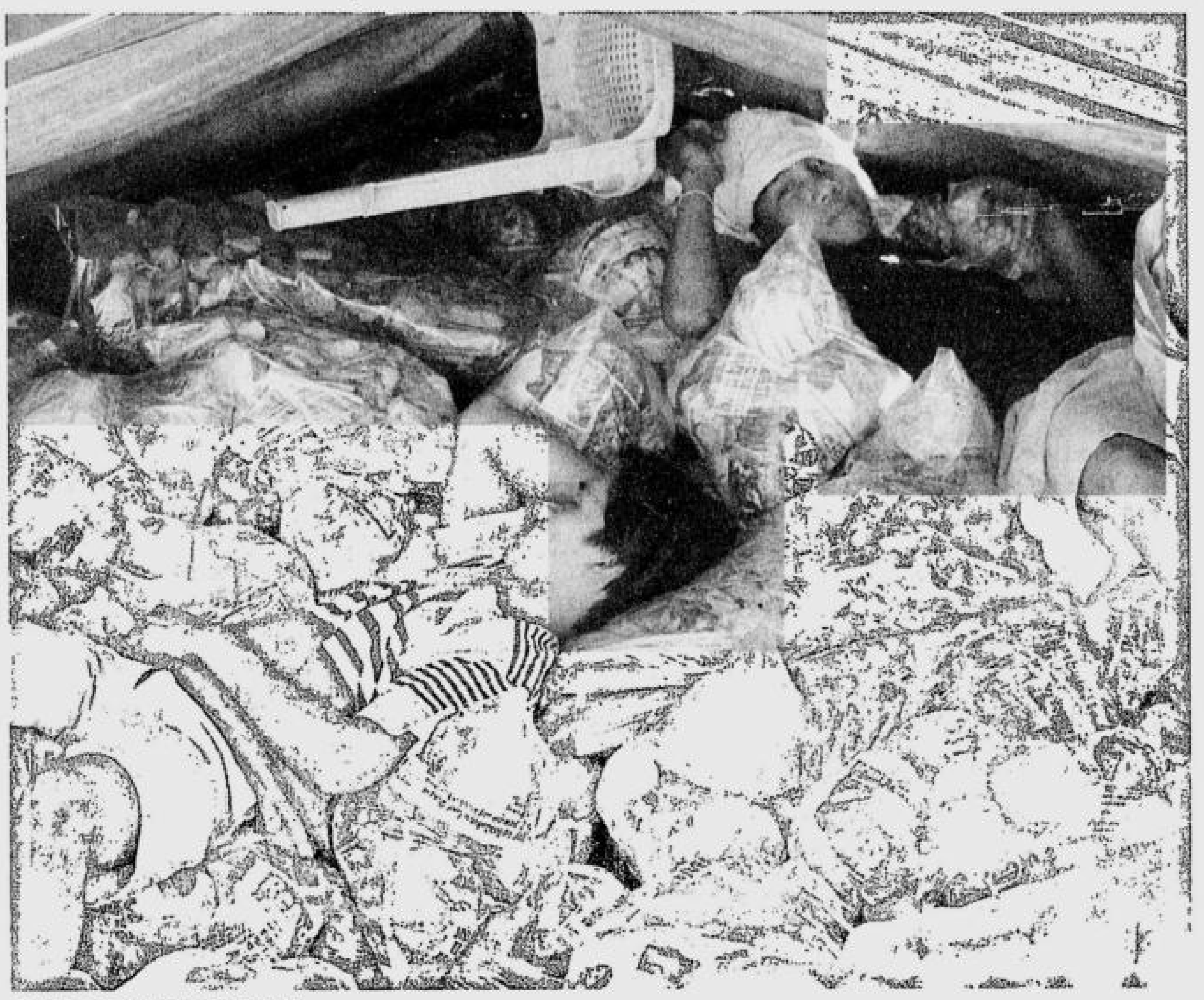
In 2001, he said, their budget was P1.671 billion. In 2002 it was trimmed down to P1.663 billion, and now it is only P1.43 billion. This amount, according to him, still has to cover and serve as a counterpart of all foreign-assisted projects.

He added that for locally funded projects, the DPWH regional office only got P239 million.

Talastas said the amount is not enough, as they are still indebted to some local contractors for last year's projects.

DPWH Bicol director Orlando Roces held a meeting with division chiefs yesterday, including DPWH Bicol Employees Union president Edwin Hadjie, concerning the issue.

As a remedy, he said, he agreed not to terminate casuals but their hiring will depend on the availability of projects and will be on rotation basis. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



A HARD DAY'S NIGHT
Haulers rest on packs of vegetables being transported from Benguet to public markets. AFP

GenSan mayor vows to impose firecrackers ban

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. vowed to impose a permanent ban on the sale of firecrackers during Christmas season here.

Acharon told reporters here that he would ask the city council to pass an ordinance making the ban permanent.

Earlier, the mayor issued an executive order prohibiting the sale and use of firecrackers during the holiday season.

The executive order also designated the city oval plaza as firecracker zone. It was the only area where the sale and use of pyrotechnics were allowed.

But some residents defied the order especially during the New Year's Eve revelry, resulting to the injury of at least four persons.

The police claimed it was useless to apprehend all the violators in the absence of a law with specific penal provision.

Passing an ordinance to that effect, the mayor said, he would plug the loophole.

The law, if enacted, would be another big blow to the slumping firecrackers industry.

Firecracker manufacturers in Central Luzon blamed the significant low sales of firecrackers in the country on the ban imposed particularly by the local governments of Davao and Zamboanga.

Firecrackers from Central Luzon are shipped through the Makar Port here, then distributed to retail and wholesale outlets in the South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsksargen) area. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 more NBI agents named in Congress probe

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"It sounded like (you were going to) a party."

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne "Etta" Rosales made this comment yesterday upon hearing that the confidential agents, who joined the Dec. 13 bungled operation, were friends and neighbors of the National Bureau of Investigation agents.

Rosales heads the House committee on human, civil and political rights that conducted a legislative inquiry into the NBI bungled operation, which resulted to the wounding of five resort employees.

Names of the four CAs, who joined the operation, cropped up during the hearing on Monday at the Sacred Heart Center in this city.

They were identified as Denz Pantano, Allan Magallon, Noe Dimaunahan and Rick Cruz. Two other CAs, who were identified earlier, were ABS-CBN Cebu reporter Paul Lauro and businessman Joey Cal.

But legislators believed that there were more after the results of the paraffin test conducted by the NBI showed that only three agents were found positive of gunpowder burns.

They were special agents Arnel Pura, Rey Tumalon and Teodoro Saavedra.

Agent Angelito Magno and special investigator Danilo Garay were found negative of gunpowder burns.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco said he found it hard to believe that only three agents had fired their guns considering that 73 bullet holes were counted on the L300 van boarded by the employees of Cebu Plantation Bay, a high-end resort hotel on Mactan Island, Cebu.

He said they would cite the NBI agents in contempt if they refused to identify their other companions involved in the operations.

Lawyer Romulo Manapsal, NBI director for Central Visayas, and the five agents are facing charges of multiple frustrated murder and attempted murder.

They have been suspended for six months by the Office of the Ombudsman pending investigation into the complaint filed by the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Pura said they tapped the services of the CAs due to the agency's limited manpower and transportation. These CAs, he added, were their trusted friends who helped them during the operation.

During that Dec. 13 operation, Pantano owned and drove the green Nissan pick-up while Cal owned the white Pajero. The NBI owned the third vehicle but it was driven by Dimaunahan.

Pura told the committee members that Lauro insisted on joining them to get a scoop.

He said they considered Magallon a "neighbor" because he lived at the back of the NBI Compound along the Capitol Site. He admitted that Magallon was a former confidential agent.

Pura said Dimaunahan was also a friend.

Garay claimed that Cruz, whom he described was his friend, merely carried Garay's flashlight because it was dark at that time as the operation took place at about 2 a.m.

His remark elicited laughter from the legislators attending the hearing.

"Is that a habit of your office to take in friends and neighbors in covert operations?" Rosales asked, adding that the NBI had placed these civilians at risk.

She pointed out that Roberto Hegremose, the target of the bungled operation, was reportedly armed and had at least five equally armed bodyguards.

The NBI, she added, should have coordinated with the other police units instead of tapping the help of these civilian agents.

Cebu Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, however, said she suspected that the NBI agents wanted to hide some information especially about the identities of the CAs.

Michael Monsod, 32, sports manager of the hotel and driver of the L300 van, said six armed men were on board the Starex van, which blocked their path at about 2 a.m. of Dec. 13.

Fearing that they might be lawless elements, he said he immediately sped off. But they were chased and fired upon by the armed men onboard the Starex van.

He said he was forced to stop along A.S. Fortuna in Barangay Banilad, Cebu City, because the tires were busted.

Aside from Monsod, wounded were Sunshine Gregorio, press relations associate; and Ninette Castillon, spa supervisor; Carlos Cajoles, sports attendant and Don Enabe, laundry attendant. Alfie Fernandez, the resort's sport coordinator escaped unscathed.

Pura and Garay maintained that no Starex van was used in the operation. He said the Toyota Revo might have been mistaken for a Starex van. *With a report from Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Typewriters donated for Abra students pour in

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGUED, Abra—Student writers in remote towns of Abra will soon have the typewriters that they have long been dreaming about after several donors, some of them from abroad, pledged to give them the equipment soon.

"They (donors) were touched after they read the situation of the students (in Abra)," said Fr. Antonio Ruyan, describing the general sentiment of the donors of typewriters, coupon bonds and other school materials.

The INQUIRER wrote on Jan. 1 about the plight of student writers in Tineg, Manabo and Tubo towns who do not have typewriters in which to type their stories.

Ruyan, also editor of the local weekly Abra Today, said he has received 20 pledges for typewriters, mostly coming from Manila and from Filipinos abroad who read the story in the INQUIRER and INQ7.net, the INQUIRER's on-line edition.

"We did not know that there are still areas in the country experiencing such situation," said Ruyan, quoting a donor from San Jose, California.

The donor is a native of Nueva Ecija and has pledged to give typewriters, old books and other school materials.

Another donor from Canada told Ruyan that they would buy old typewriters in garage sales there and send these to Abra.

Ruyan said a former typing and secretarial school in Manila would donate 15 typewriters and some old personal computers.

"It is like late Christmas gifts for us. We are really very thankful because the items are badly needed by the students," Ruyan said.

He said their problem now is how to gather all donations and transport these to Abra.

Earlier, Edgardo Ferras, an English teacher of Tineg National High School, said his student writers have to wait for weekends to type their stories because they have to borrow the only typewriter of the town at the municipal hall.

Other high school papers in the interior towns of Abra also share the same problem.

Ruyan said there are about 50 public and private schools in Abra who need typewriters, coupon bonds and other school materials.

During a recent journalism workshop here organized by the Center for Community Journalism and Development, the high school newspaper advisers also said many towns do not even have electricity.

Red Batario, executive director of CCJD, said the next best journalists or writers could come from these towns and it would be tragic if they would not have a chance to hone their talents.

Those who want to donate typewriters, coupon bonds, books and other school materials may contact Ruyan at his cell phone 09197324970. They may also bring their donations to the INQUIRER offices in Makati City and look for Kelly Ortiz of the corporate relations office.

ROUNDUP

American found dead

ANGELES CITY—A 63-year-old American was found dead in his house in Barangay Balibago here on Sunday. Supt. Jaime Restua, city police chief, said Louis O'Connor, a bachelor, was identified through the help of his goddaughter. Policemen went to O'Connor's house after the latter's neighbors asked them to check the area on suspicion that something bad had happened to him. Policemen saw him on a sofa and his head slumped on a table.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Soldier kills 2

SAN JUAN, Ilocos Sur—A soldier here shot and killed a father and his son after a fight in a videoke bar in Barangay Immayos Norte here on Sunday night. Killed were former village chair Rogelio Ricanor and his son Robert. Police said the suspect, Sgt. Joffrey Bandula, 26, shot the Ricanors after Robert had a fight with one of Bandula's companions. Bandula fled. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Tank blast kills laborer

TAGAYTAY CITY—A laborer died on the spot while his two other companions were wounded after an oxygen tank they were refilling suddenly exploded inside the construction site at Taal Vista Lodge Compound in Barangay Kaybagal here on Saturday, police said. The victims were Sonny Boy Adora, 21, and Alejandro Dumale, 25, both residents of Barangay Muson, and Ramos Peña, 31, heavy equipment operator of Barangay Ampit, San Mateo, Rizal. All were employees of Conmich Construction.
Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

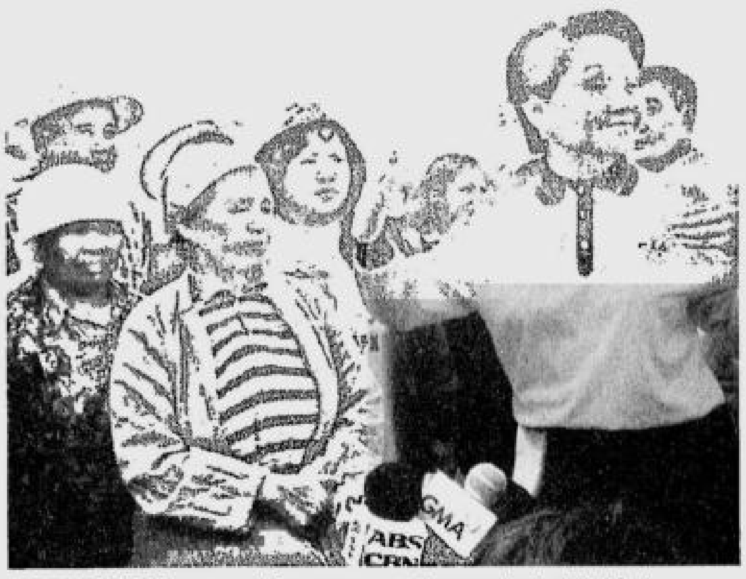
Truck hijacked

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two truck helpers are feared dead after their 6-wheeler truck containing about P400,000 worth of groceries was hijacked in JP Laurel Highway in Tanauan, Batangas. The truck was on its way to Lipa City when a dark green Mitsubishi L300 van blocked its way. Three men alighted from the vehicle and ordered driver Efren Tupaz and helpers Roberto Garcia and Jojo Bornilla at gunpoint to transfer to the van. The victims said another man took control of the truck. Tupaz escaped and reported the incident to the Tanauan police station.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

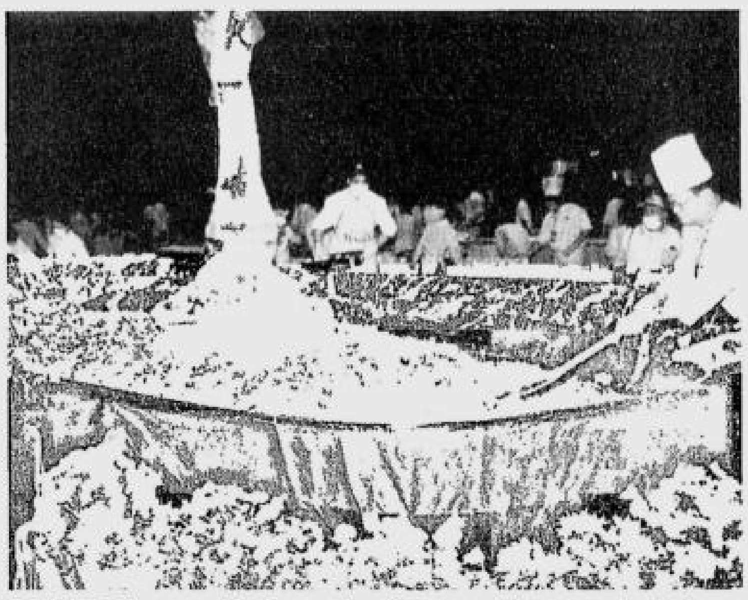
Hot lumber seized

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Environmental agents of the provincial government seized on Sunday at least 2,201 board feet of illegally cut lumber in a checkpoint in Barangay Salvacion here. A report of Kilusan Sagip Kalikasan (KSK), a task force under the office of the governor, said the seized lumber were banned species like *apitong, nato* and *ipil*. Total log ban is being implemented in the province to protect the forests from further denudation. Ownership of the hot lumber was traced to a certain Roy Abis. The certificate of lumber origin issued by the environment department had already been consumed.
Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo meets farmers in La Trinidad, Benguet, to personally deliver her administration's actions against vegetable smuggling. TOOTS SOBERANO



BAGUIO City staged in September the second giant tossed salad festival to help the vegetable industry in Benguet. TOOTS SOBERANO

NOT only did smuggling and importation hurt Benguet's vegetable farmers, abnormal plant diseases also affected cabbage plantations. EV ESPIRITU

A shocker in Baguio, disasters in C. Luzon

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Central Luzon Desk

YEARENDER

THE BIGGEST stories from Northern Luzon for 2002 came as the year was about to close.

Baguio City played host to the biggest shocker of 2002 from President Macapagal-Arroyo when she announced her decision not to seek office in 2004 during the Rizal Day rites in Burnham Park.

Although the announcement stunned the nation, some people met the declaration with skepticism. The President said she made a personal sacrifice to unite the nation and focus her energy on strengthening the economy in her last 18 months in office.

On Dec. 29, the early morning silence in Tuba, Benguet, was shattered by an explosion that damaged the giant concrete bust of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The communist New People's Army claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying the bust was a "monument to a dictator's absolute arrogance and egotism" and thus must be erased from the memory of Filipinos.

Veggie, 'bangus' industries

The year 2002 was bad for the vegetable industry in Benguet and Mt. Province, and for the aquaculture industry in Pangasinan.

Some 250,000 commercial vegetable farmers from Benguet and Mt. Province, who supply 80 percent of the country's tropical vegetables, had been mourning since July when vegetable prices plunged to an all-time low, thanks to a deadly mix of unregulated vegetable importation and smuggling.

For the first time, farmers and local traders protested against globalization, which used to be an issue confined to red-flag-waving activists.

Benguet and Mt. Province officials also joined the chorus of protests against unbridled vegetable importation and smuggling, passing resolutions and petitions to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Customs and to Malacañang, and seeking the help of Congress to help probe and address the problem.

Ms Macapagal, however, personally assured the farmers and officials that the government was addressing the problems. She released at least P11 million for the establishment of cold storage and other facilities for the farmers' produce. She also formed an anti-smuggling task to prevent smuggled vegetables from penetrating the market.

Pangasinan's aquaculture industry lost more than P400 million worth of *bangus* (milkfish) cultured in fishponds and pens in Bolinao town and Dagupan City due to massive fish kills in February.

On the indigenous peoples' front, the obscure upland town of Bakun in Benguet made history when it was the first to be awarded a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) on July 20.

The awarding came two days before the President presented her report card through her State of the Nation Address on July 22. Had the Bakun CADT not been awarded, Ms Macapagal would have nothing to show for her promise in her Sona in 2001—to award 100 CADTs to the country's various indigenous peoples.

Covering 29,444.34 hectares, the CADT now officially recognizes the 17,000 Bakun Kankanaey-Bago people's "collective ownership" of their domain.

Marcos gravesite

The Marcos family revived plans to finally bury the frozen remains of the strongman in September, after former first lady Imelda Marcos solicited designs for a park-and-garden-type gravesite complete with a museum, library and a memorial for her husband.

The gravesite, to be called "Maharlika," would be built in Marcos' hometown of Batac in Ilocos Norte.

Two mayors in Northern Luzon were killed last year.

Mayor Jesus Sebastian of Jones, Isabela, was assassinated by NPA rebels in an early morning attack on April 22.

On Oct. 29, Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra, was gunned down inside a church in Calauan, Laguna. Police said the murder was related to a political feud in his town.

Twelve suspected members of the Bagis robbery gang based in Baguio and Benguet were killed in an encounter with policemen in Alcala, Pangasinan, on Feb. 8.

At least 46 people were killed in Northern and Central Luzon as successive typhoons hit the regions in July. Most coastal and low-lying towns in the two regions were submerged in at least three feet of floodwaters.

Old conflicts

The events and issues in Central Luzon in 2002 defined the past 12 months as largely devoid of peace and prosperity. The few good news were eclipsed by old conflicts, old problems that took new forms.

The death of Dexter Balala, 4, on May 31 stirred outrage. The boy from the City of San Fernando succumbed to stab wounds from his hostage taker Diomedes Talvo and from bullet wounds after Pasay City policemen fired at Talvo.

In January, an S-211 trainer jet of the Philippine Air Force crashed in a neighborhood in Cabanatuan City, killing its two pilots and five residents. In May, a PAF F-5 attack jet on a training flight for a Philippines-US military exercise in Luzon crashed into a school in Mabalacat, Pampanga. It killed a pilot and a teacher, injured 10 civilians, burned eight schoolrooms and ripped the roof of about 100 houses.

In August, Adelina Cunanan showed the human face of the danger of working overseas. Cunanan, a caregiver, was among the nine people who died in a packed bus blown up by a Palestinian suicide bomber in Israel.

War games

Troubles also hounded Visiting Forces Agreement-related war games that were bigger in contingencies and held on longer duration.

In February, an MC-130H cargo plane flying over Northern Luzon was shot from the ground. In April, a PAF MG520 attack helicopter on a training flight for Balikatan 02-2 crashed at the runway of Clark's Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, hurting its two pilots.

At least P563 million from the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission ended up being used in Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales for 36 desilting projects that were ineffective against flood.

Crime, disasters

Drought spared Central Luzon but 140,000 ha in the region remained not irrigated. The Cong Dadong Dam was finally operated last October after 26 years of construction delayed by protests and the Mt. Pinatubo disaster.

Crimes in the region rose to 9.7 percent or a total of 8,069 cases. About 10 kidnapping incidents were reported in Central Luzon last year. The Bulacan and Pampanga stretch of the Northern Luzon Expressway became a favorite spot of hijackers.

The Red Vigilante Group (RVG) exercised its brand of justice in 2002. Authorities ordered a crackdown on the elusive RVG and heaped on it kidnapping and murder cases.

Central Luzon continued to be a "jueteng" lair after the fall of President Joseph Estrada from the Juetengate scandal.

Two batches of Filipinos—63 in June and 84 in December—deported by the United States for criminal and immigration offenses returned home via Clark's Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

The year saw a more intensified drive by the military against two communist factions. Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Philippine Army's Northern Luzon Command, said the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA and its rival, the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, lost 172 leaders and fighters from the military's anti-insurgency operation called "Gordian Knot."

The communist groups, however, continued to expand in remote villages in the region and had claimed victory in various encounters with the government.

The 56-km FVR Megadike, Pampanga's last defense against lahar, suffered a 100-meter crack. Floodwaters almost swamped the mothballed P3-billion Expo Pilipino.

Floods submerged 1,000 villages and killed 10 people, mostly children. The barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections were postponed in many areas due to floods.

In Zambales, mining wastes from two damaged dams and spillways of the Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc. spilled into the Mapanuepe Lake.

Also in August, some 300 Aeta families in Botolan, Zambales, fled their villages as the crater-lake of Mt. Pinatubo, artificially breached in 2001, broke out and triggered lahar flows as high as 10 meters.

Mikey-Angela wedding

Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo wed his first cousin Angela Montenegro in the Macapagals' hometown of Lubao in Pampanga.

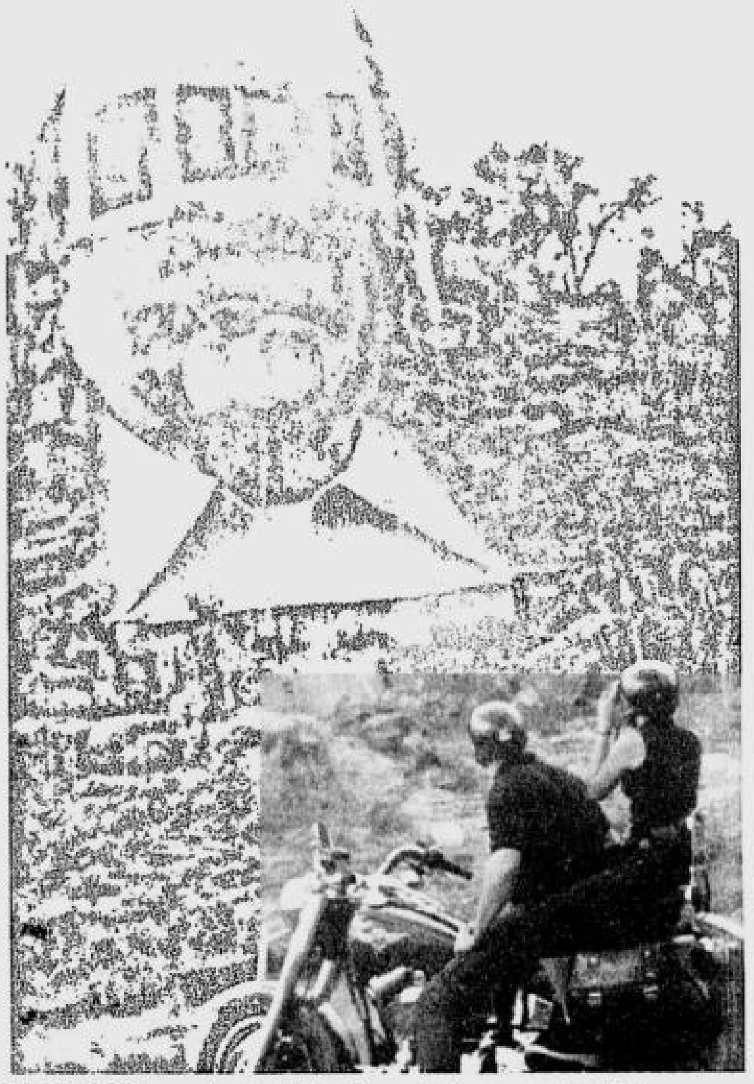
At the Philippine Carabao Center in the Science City of Munoz, scientists were elated on the birth of the test tube carabao "Glory" on April 5, the President's birthday.

Pinatubo continued to be the main tourist attraction in Central Luzon. The Department of Tourism said about 50 percent of visitors to the region were inclined to take on a two to three-day adventure trips to Pinatubo, as well as in other places with ecotourism potentials like Subic Bay Freeport, the mountain hideaways in Zambales and Nueva Ecija, and the surfing areas in Aurora.

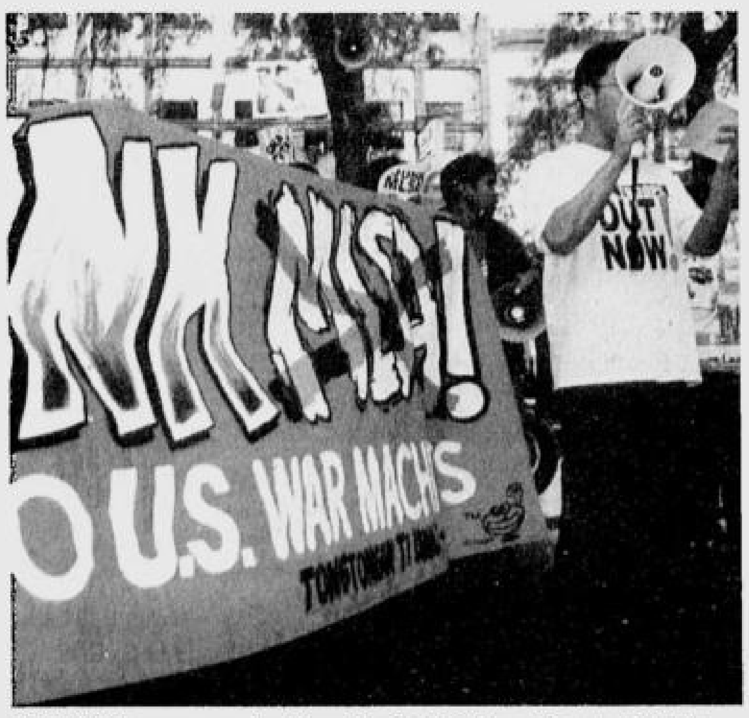
The President's thrust to promote tourism in the country continued in 2002. She initially planned to climb Mt. Pulag in Kabayan, Benguet, but withdrew after residents aired fears that the expected big presidential entourage would destroy the mountain's delicate ecology. Instead, she climbed Pinatubo on June 5.

Ms Macapagal and her family also promoted the Cordillera as a prime tourism destination when they spent their Christmas and New Year holidays in Baguio for the second year.

The President strolled in the city's parks and attended Mass in churches. She and her family also visited the strawberry farms of La Trinidad, Benguet and the rice terraces of Ifugao. *Reports from Maurice Malanes, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque and Jo Clemente*



BLASTED Marcos bust in Tuba, Benguet, becomes a tourist attraction. EV ESPIRITU



MILITANT groups protest the visit of US Defense Secretary Collin Powell in the country in a multisectoral rally and noise barrage held at the Peoples Park in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO

ODUCERS MULTI PURPOSE COOPERATIVE

FLOOD submerges the public market in Calasiao, Pangasinan. TOOTS SOBERANO

PRESIDENT Macapagal's son and Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo marries his first cousin Angela Montenegro in Lubao, Pampanga. EDWIN BACASMAS

Biazon, De Villa wooed

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appointment as press secretary in place of Ignacio Bunye.

It was Bunye himself who made the announcement at a briefing, saying his replacement would assume the post on Jan. 15. Both men are former members of the 11th Congress.

Bunye, who just the other day was named spokesperson for the President concurrent with his being press secretary, said he and Braganza would "maintain good working arrangements to ensure adequate media access and to facilitate coverage of events."

He described Braganza as "professional and a team player."

Talk of Braganza's appointment vice Bunye surfaced as early as Sunday. But Rigoberto Tiglao, whom Bunye replaced as Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, said appointments to the Cabinet would be announced at the "appropriate time."

The appointments came on the heels of the President's surprise declaration that she would not run in the 2004 elections in order to unburden the rest of her term of politics.

Still, politics appeared to be alive and well in Malacañang, judging from the supposed power play to block Braganza's appointment.

Late Monday night a Palace official surprised reporters with the tip that Golez would be named press secretary. But the official immediately modified the tip, saying Golez was "being considered" for the post.

Asked that night about the mention of his name as possible press chief, Golez said flatly: "No comment."

Threatened

Various radio reports yesterday claimed that the "float" came from the camp of Tiglao, now working full-time as Ms Macapagal's chief of staff.

According to an account from the Braganza camp, Tiglao told Braganza at a meeting Monday afternoon to take on another post as "presidential spokesperson for political affairs."

The account said Tiglao felt threatened by Braganza's entry into the Palace's inner corridors and was not even consulted by the President on Braganza's appointment.

Sought for comment, Tiglao said: "Nani is my friend. *Bakit ko gagawin yon* (Why should I do that)?"

A source in Tiglao's camp denied that they tried to block Braganza's appointment.

"Not true!" the source said. "Braganza was in fact hesitant to accept the post and asked Tiglao to convince the President not to appoint him as press secretary."

Asked why Braganza would ask Tiglao to do so, the source said the post was not Braganza's "type."

The source also confirmed an account from the Braganza camp that, in Braganza's presence, Tiglao phoned Ms Macapagal to say that her prospective appointee was not interested.

But another Braganza aide said he just wanted more time to wrap up his affairs at the DAR and to be apprised of his duties and responsibilities as press secretary.

Academic

Asked at the briefing why Golez's name was floated, the amiable Bunye said: "I am not privy to any arrangements. But whatever took place is now moot and academic."

To suggestions that he was demoted in order to give way to the much younger Braganza, Bunye said: "I am a basketball player and I obey the decision of the coach."

He pointed out that he was "not married to the title and position."

Bunye also told reporters that they would see him "often enough."

Another source from the Tiglao camp claimed that Tiglao constituted a one-person "search committee" and had been assigned to meet with both Braganza and Golez.

But this source could not say whether Tiglao was able to speak with Golez about the press portfolio.

Bunye likewise refused to comment when asked yesterday whether his removal as press secretary was in preparation for his being named chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, an agency he previously headed.

The current MMDA chair, Bayani Fernando, has been offered the top post at the Department of Public Works and Highways, which was vacated with the appointment of Secretary Simeon Datumanong to the Department of Justice.

"There is no final word on that yet," Bunye said of Fernando's taking over the DPWH. Fernando had earlier said he would make his decision by Friday.

Sound

But take it from a Marikina resident like Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.: Fernando will do well as public works secretary.

The opposition senator lauded the President's offer to Fernando, saying it was a "sound decision."

Pimentel is basing his praise on Fernando's record of transforming Marikina from a polluted and crime-riddled municipality to one of Metro Manila's cleanest and most orderly cities.

"He is a good choice," Pimentel said in a statement. "He solved the flood problem in Marikina and paved the roads in almost all barangays in the city. His expertise would benefit the entire country."

Pimentel also said he witnessed how the then Marikina Mayor Fernando "used his skills as an engineer in putting up a drainage system in Barangay Concepcion, which put an end to the serious flooding problem on the main road leading to San Mateo."

But at the House, some congressmen are hoping that the President would retain Fernando at the MMDA and appoint an "insider" at the DPWH.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras said he and Representatives Prospero Nograles and Prospero Pichay were convinced that Public Works Undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion deserved the public works portfolio.

Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation and communications, described Encarnacion as an old hand at the DPWH, with "strong knowledge of infrastructure," and known to be an honest man.

Paras said Fernando should be allowed to complete his projects at the MMDA. "Why remove him from where he is doing good?" Paras said. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Juliet L. Javellana*

AFP chief to Corpus: Is it OK to transfer you?

From page A1

the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the high-profile adversary of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, would be transferred to another post.

No less than AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Dionisio Santiago raised the possibility. Santiago told defense reporters yesterday he had already consulted Corpus, his senior at the Philippine Military Academy, on the possibility of a transfer and on the revamp.

"I asked him if it would be OK if he was going to be moved and he told me that it would be OK. You cannot expect a negative response from Colonel Corpus," Santiago, the country's only four-star general, told reporters.

Later in the day, however, in a second interview, Santiago said that Corpus would not be affected by the coming revamp at all, adding that Corpus still had a long career ahead of him.

Santiago said Corpus was actually slated for promotion, but he did not say when. Corpus is set to retire next year.

Asked why he needed to consult Corpus, Santiago said: "Why not? We are consulting as many people as we can."

The Inquirer tried to reach Corpus on his phone, but he did not answer it. Instead, Corpus sent a text message calling all the talk "mere rumors."

Coming revamp

In his earlier briefing, Santiago said his discussion with Corpus was prompted by the impending retirement of a number of military officers next month.

Their discussion, Santiago clarified, did not necessarily mean that Corpus would be replaced as Isafp chief, although he pointed out that Corpus had other areas of "specialization" which the AFP could also utilize.

The officials that Santiago mentioned as retiring next month include Army vice commander Maj. Gen. Pedro Atienza and Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado of the 5th Infantry Division.

The AFP also has to fill up the vice chief of staff post which Santiago occupied from Nov. 14 to Nov. 28 last year.

The AFP Board of Generals, which Santiago chairs, is currently deliberating on the revamp.

Corpus was a young lieutenant when he defected to the communist New People's Army in the 1970s—a major scandal at the time.

He was captured and spent several years in detention before he was reinstated as an officer after Edsa I.

As a key aide to then AFP Chief of Staff and now Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Corpus was a central player in Edsa II. Promoted by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the post of military intelligence chief in 2001, Corpus later accused Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police and also a graduate of the PMA, of money laundering and other grave crimes, charges which Lacson has strongly denied.

Couple sketched Campos murder scene

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black shirt, gloves and a bonnet covering his face, showing his eyes and mouth only."

With no witness to positively identify the gunman, police will attempt to reenact the killing of the bemedalled anti-narcotics officer. Supt. Wency Pascual, officer in charge of the Parañaque police, said investigators would also retrace Campos' movements from Camp Crame to Doña Soledad Avenue in Parañaque, where he was gunned down at the 24-hour roadside eatery.

"At this point, we can't determine who killed Campos. But we can at least determine how he was killed," Pascual told the Inquirer.

Pascual said he and his men would reexamine the crime site and consolidate the accounts of six witnesses, including those of the nameless couple and of Antonio Cabanban, Campos' companion who survived the ambush.

The other witnesses include the waitress and the cook of Tita Ghem's Food Haus and a guard of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC).

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the statement that the couple submitted to Pascual and his men a few hours after the murder. The statement includes a sketch of the crime scene showing the position of their car and the getaway vehicle, which they described as "Corolla (Toyota) dark green, heavily tinted, parked at the middle side of the road with no 'on' light," with its "passenger side back door open."

The couple described the gunman as "very relaxed," "shooting focused [on] the person even though the target was already lying on [the] floor."

"He was shooting and shooting," they said.

The couple also recounted how they had tried to overtake the gunman's vehicle and nearly hit it in the process, and how the gunman had aimed his rifle at them.

Pascual said the first thing that police would have to resolve was the description of the getaway vehicle.

In a sworn statement, the PNCC guard said the gunman fled on board a red Honda Civic with no plate number after shooting Campos from across the street—a contradiction of the couple's account

But the witnesses agreed that the gunman was "large and tall," about 5'7", and dressed in black.

Phone calls

Police said another key point they would look into involved the supposed phone call Cabanban made minutes before Campos was killed. Cabanban has denied making such a call.

In a sworn statement, the waitress said she saw Cabanban talking on his mobile phone for about a minute. About three minutes later, she said, the gunman began firing.

Cabanban, 41, did not mention the supposed phone call in the seven-page affidavit he had earlier submitted to the Parañaque police.

But Cabanban told the Inquirer Monday that hours before he was killed, Campos received at least 10 nasty calls on his mobile phone on top of several rude text messages from his ex-lover, Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

Ong denied this, saying: "I never called [Campos] on the day he was killed. I was even the one who arranged his application to change his cell number sometime in 2000."

At the time of Campos' death, Ong said, her ex-lover was using the number 0917-8989484, the last four digits of which they had supposedly agreed to pattern "for easy recall," after the number of the Parañaque house where they lived together for years.

Cabanban, however, said Campos had been so harassed by Ong's supposed calls that he had to have the numbers of his land line and of his mobile phone changed at least four times.

"Still, she would know his new number. Sometimes she would send dirty messages," Cabanban said in Filipino shortly before Parañaque police arrived at his residence in Moonwalk to question him.

During questioning, Cabanban said Campos had recorded all the messages supposedly sent by Ong, including the time and day he got them.

Cabanban said the transcription was given to a friend for safekeeping.

However, Cabanban said Campos knew that Ong "was not personally capable of having him killed."

"She was just part of the script ... a puppet," Cabanban said.

Human cloning could be 'elaborate hoax'

From page A1

could be "an elaborate hoax" by the Raelian sect.

"This morning, I suspended the independent review process designed to determine whether or not a cloned human baby has been born," Guillen said in a statement.

"The team of scientists has had no access to the alleged family and, therefore, cannot verify firsthand the claim that a human baby has been cloned," he said.

"In other words, it's still entirely possible Clonaid's announcement is part of an elaborate hoax intended to bring publicity to the Raelian movement," Guillen said.

Nadine Gary, spokesperson of the human cloning company Clonaid, said she was surprised by Guillen's announcement. "I'm not aware" of the suspension, she said.

Gary said that Clonaid president Brigitte Boisselier was awaiting a response from the baby's parents on whether they would allow the DNA tests. "The parents' final answer will not come before 4 or 5 p.m. (2100 or 2200 GMT)," she said.

Under Guillen's supervision, an independent expert was to have taken DNA samples from the baby, dubbed Eve, and her still unidentified mother.

Testing stopped

But Raelian sect founder Claude Vorilhon had the DNA testing stopped after a Florida court summoned him to a hearing to decide whether to place the purportedly cloned infant under court protection.

Clonaid, whose offices are in Las Vegas, Nevada, was founded by the Raelian sect, which believes humans were cloned from aliens who landed on Earth 25,000 years ago.

Boisselier announced on Dec. 26 the birth of what she claimed to be the world's first human baby clone. On Saturday, she said a second baby clone had been born to a lesbian couple in the Netherlands.

Neither birth has been confirmed by independent scientists, and the Raelians have provided no proof to support their claims.

"It was necessary for us to operate in secret, in order to protect the identity of the alleged parents who were unwilling to reveal themselves," Guillen said.

The New York Times reported Sunday that Guillen had approached several broadcasters months before the cloning announcement to offer exclusive coverage of the event, throwing into question his independence from Clonaid and the Raelians.

"Removing myself from the actual testing procedure was especially crucial to me because of my well-known interest in doing a documentary on human cloning that would involve Dr. Boisselier's work," Guillen said, adding that he wanted to avoid any possibility of bias.

The former science editor at ABC television, who said he assembled a team of veterans from two highly respected DNA testing facilities, has not excluded the possibility of conducting the tests at a later date.

"When and if an opportunity to collect DNA samples as promised does arise, however, the team stands fully prepared to remobilize and conduct the necessary tests," Guillen said.

The controversy sparked by claims from the Raelian sect of having orchestrated the birth of a baby clone has a precedent: a spectacular hoax carried off in 1978 by US journalist David Rorvik.

Written 25 years ago, the book "In His Image: The Cloning of a Man" is authored by independent science writer Rorvik, already known for his passionate interest in genetics and parascience. *AFP*

Cebuanos fall for GMA

From page A1

Metro Manila since she announced in Baguio City that she would not stand for election in 2004. But the reception she received is usually reserved only for wildly popular presidential aspirants.

Arm in arm with former Cebu City Vice Mayor Renato Osmeña, who was also a principal sponsor to last Saturday's grand wedding of Christina and Jerald, son of former Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, the President was the center of attention.

The lovely American bride Christina did draw admiring sighs when it was her turn to walk to the altar and appeared unaffected by the attention accorded Ms Macapagal.

Despite tight security at the cathedral, presidential guards and local police were unable to restrain spectators who wanted to get as close as possible to see the President. Some churchgoers did not leave the Cathedral after attending an earlier Mass preceding the 6 p.m. wedding.

For someone who's out of the presidential race, the President conducted herself in a politically correct manner. She nodded her head, waved at those who were straining to catch a glimpse of her, to catch her attention.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, a close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada, who officiated at the wedding rites, hugged the President after the ceremony and whispered something in her ear.

"I hope you will be happier this year." This according to Cardinal Vidal was what she told the President.

The President, the Prelate revealed, answered, "please pray for me."

"The feeling that I had about her presence, she was quite happy," the prelate told reporters on Sunday, recalling their brief exchange Saturday night.

And Ms Macapagal, indeed had every reason to be happy. The Cebuanos were so approving and appreciative of what she had called was her "personal sacrifice" to unite the country.

Dining with pols

After the wedding, the President proceeded to the Cebu Waterfront Hotel to break bread with 300 Cebuano politicians and public officials, transport and business leaders and local personalities who have been her supporters since she first ran for public office as senator in 1992.

Why meet with a slew of politicians when the lady said she's no longer running for office?

"I have to explain to them my decision not to run," the President told the Inquirer.

Again, the President was met with a thunderous applause and a standing ovation as she entered the doors of the hotel's Mediterranean Hall shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday.

Wearing the same fall browngown she wore at the wedding, the President tirelessly talked with Cebu leaders, among them former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña, Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar, Bogo town Mayor Celestino Martinez III, Mandaue City Mayor Thaddeo Ouano and Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia.

At dinner, the Cebu leaders carefully avoided talking about her decision. Del Mar recalled that they all felt that it was not the right place to talk about politics.

But after the dinner, as she hopped from one table to the next, the talk came down to mainly that.

One table of local officials told her they felt sad about her decision. The President replied that her decision had freed her hands and created a positive atmosphere for everybody. She said even the opposition leaders would now want to get her support for their own presidential ambitions.

The issue was again brought up in another table composed of local officials of Cebu's fifth district.

Sogod Vice Mayor Thaddeus Durano, a scion of the political clan which had dominated the fifth district for decades, told the President that they would continue to support her should she change her mind.

Firm

But the President was firm. Instead, she said that in December, she would endorse her own candidate for the presidential election whom she hoped they would support.

Ms Macapagal also reminded them to focus their attention on solving the country's problems.

But not only politics was on the menu.

There was a traders' group who complained of harassment by the Bureau of Customs and the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) when about 6,200 bags of local rice shipped to Cebu from Manila were seized on Dec. 4 on suspicion that these were smuggled.

The group complained that the Customs and the Marina published the names of the traders, who were consignees of the shipment as though they were the smugglers. They claimed that a similar incident happened last April.

Smuggled rice

Consolacion Vice Mayor Teresa Alegado, who is national executive vice president of the Grains Retailers Confederation of the Philippines, told the President that they found it ironic that local rice traders were being harassed while smuggled rice had been entering into the domestic market.

Ms Macapagal referred the matter to Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of the Presidential Security Group who also chairs the anti-smuggling task force.

'Karancho'

The Cebu chapter members of Karancho, who are involved in land-based search and rescue and disaster relief operations, considers the President their ex-officio member because she had inspired them to organize.

The Karancho has been a political supporter of the President since 1992 and had been tasked to be her fourth ring security detail on her provincial trip. Karancho has chapters in all key cities in the country. From an initial 25 members, their number has risen to 280,000 nationwide.

The last group she met was the Pampanga group composed of Pampangueños who reside in Cebu.

It was nearly 1 a.m. when the President took leave to get some sleep and probably to dream of other places and other voices with the fervor of Cebu. *With reports from Edra Benedicto and Lino Parone Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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SPORTS

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Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Woods named best by fellow players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida–Tiger Woods has been voted player of the year by his fellow professionals on the USPGA Tour for the fourth consecutive year, it was announced on Monday. "It's always special to have the votes of the other players," said Woods. "I'm especially proud to have won this award four consecutive times." *AFP*

Huang shoots 71; 2 Pinoys up

SINGAPORE'S Choo Tze Huang shot a 1-under-par 71 yesterday and stood on the brink of winning two major titles in the sixth Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf championship.

But Filipinos Angela Erika de Villa and Rafael Francisco looked poised to become the first winners in the six-nation event that began five years ago in Bacolod.

Choo, a 15-year-old junior at the Breddell-Westlake back home, tamed the par 72, 6,774-yard (from the blue tees) Wack-Wack East Course on nines of 35 and 36 and he likes the prospects.

"I enjoyed the golf course today," he told sportswriters. "And I like the prospects of not only retaining the Class A crown but also winning the overall championship."

De Villa pieced together nines of 50 and 52 for 102 to run away with the girls' beginners' class crown while Francisco shot 139 on 65 and 74 to also post an easy victory in the boys' division, each set for 18 holes.

The Philippines' J.R. Tanpinco started his defense of the special division title with an 80 despite tonsillitis, but he has to share the lead with South Korea's Son Hyeon Ho.

Thailand's Hirunratanakorn Anujit came up with a 76 to pace the boys' Class B. Malaysia's Ng Choo Sian Daniel took second place after an 80. South Korea's Shim Jun Bo and Koh Dhengshan of Singapore were tied for third with 82's

Mike Arroyo, the First Gentleman, and Sang Youl Eom, the Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. president and chief executive officer, hit the ceremonial drives to officially kick of the region's No.1 junior event.

A big crowd witnessed the occasion, including Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada, who launched the event in 1998, parents and team officials.

Aside from Samsung as the title sponsor, other supporters are Cebu Pacific, Wilson Sports, Morelia Tours and Travel Inc., Herma Group of Companies, PAGCOR, Mitsubishi Motors, Bingo Bonanza, Toyota Otis, Pisanti Golf, Philippine Flour Mills, Rizal Rep. Gilberto Duavit, Takanobu Taira, Airlift Asia Inc., Raul Jorge, Sysu International, Absolute Distilled Water, Gatorade and EDSA Shangri-La.

Seventy-six players—41 foreigners and 35 locals—are competing this year. The best scorer in Classes A and B will also win the overall championship.

Amateur golf tour tomorrow

TOUGH playing conditions will make consistency the main requirement when the third leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour is held tomorrow and Friday at the picturesque Tagaytay Midlands course.

The cold January gusts have toughened the course which builds its character around well-placed hazards on short holes. The fast greens loom as an added headache for competitors eyeing one of the five divisions at stake.

The Samsung Amateur Tour is a 36-hole gross competition with handicaps used only for pre-classification. There will be competitions in championship, Class A, Class B, Class C and the ladies division.

Organizers are expecting the 120 slots to be all filled up especially since the national finals of the Tour also backed by TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Fila, Cutom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers is also scheduled at the Midlands. Wave 89.1, City Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, KillerBee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

For inquiries, please call the organizing Professional Sports Management Group at 0917-8381874.

The division winners will advance to the tournament of champions next month where they will join previous qualifiers from the Eagle Ridge and the Cebu Country Club as well as the best five of the Mt. Malarayat stage on Feb. 6-7.

The true champions

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

VINTAGE American cocker-breeders, the true and original champions of the international cockfighting scene, pit prowess anew against their Filipino counterparts in the 2003 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby on Jan. 20, 22 and 24 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Entered in what is now popularly billed as the "Olympics of Cockfighting" are selected fighting cocks of former World Slasher champions Ray Alexander of Alabama, literally a heavyweight like his reputation among his peers in the United States; Dan Gray of Louisiana, whose winning lines are Kelsos and Roundhead-Clarets; multi-titled Tom Cooper of North Carolina, a past winner of the tough Sunset Derby in Louisiana; and Roger Roberts, a 63-year-old electrical engineer from Georgia who win the 2001 Slasher Derby with his dreaded Hatchets-Thunderbird Firefly in a team-up with Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta.

But would you believe that these American cocker-breeders are not compulsive gamblers even if they are engaged in a sport associated with gambling?

"I am not a gambler," once said tall and hefty Ray Alexander, who breeds cocks for a living in Birmingham. "I am more concerned with the breeding of my gamefowl. It is like religion," added the American champion who won the World Slasher Derby in 1994 together with Nene Araneta.

Dan Gray and Roger Roberts share Alexander's view. For instance, Gray has been in the cockfighting business for more than four decades, raising close to 3,000 fighting cocks in his farm in Schriever, Louisiana. In 1994, he won the first leg of the World Slasher Derby in tandem with local idol Jun Santiago.

Interestingly, some of the leading Filipino cockfighting fanciers are not heavy gamblers themselves.

"I don't bet much," said dapper Nene Araneta of Thunderbird fame. "I just love the thrill of breeding a winning gamefowl."

Other noted Filipino sportsmen-businessmen who are into cockfighting but do not consider it as gambling include Danding Cojuangco, big boss of San Miguel Corp.; shipping magnate James Chiongbian, Tarlac's Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco, National Cockers Association president and three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's pride Jun and Rudy Jingco and the Madlambayan brothers, Mario Villamor, a past COTY winner; Alex and Gerry Escalona, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta and respected breeder Boy Jiao.

"I don't bet at all," once said soft-spoken Jiao. "Still, I bet a little when my own breed is fighting."

Why does cockfighting click?

An authentic Philippine sport and the Filipinos' favorite pastime, cockfighting or sabong enjoys enormous popularity because it is fair and honest. With mere hand signals, bets are paid promptly, something which even the cynics find truly amazing. A certified crowd-drawer like basketball, cockfights are held almost daily in the country's more than 1,400 registered cockpits. Big-time derbies are regularly staged at famous landmarks like the Araneta Coliseum, Roligon Mega Cockpit, Mandaluyong Coliseum, Bacoor Coliseum and the Valenzuela Cockpit and Sports Arena in Malanday, the most popular cockpit north of Manila.

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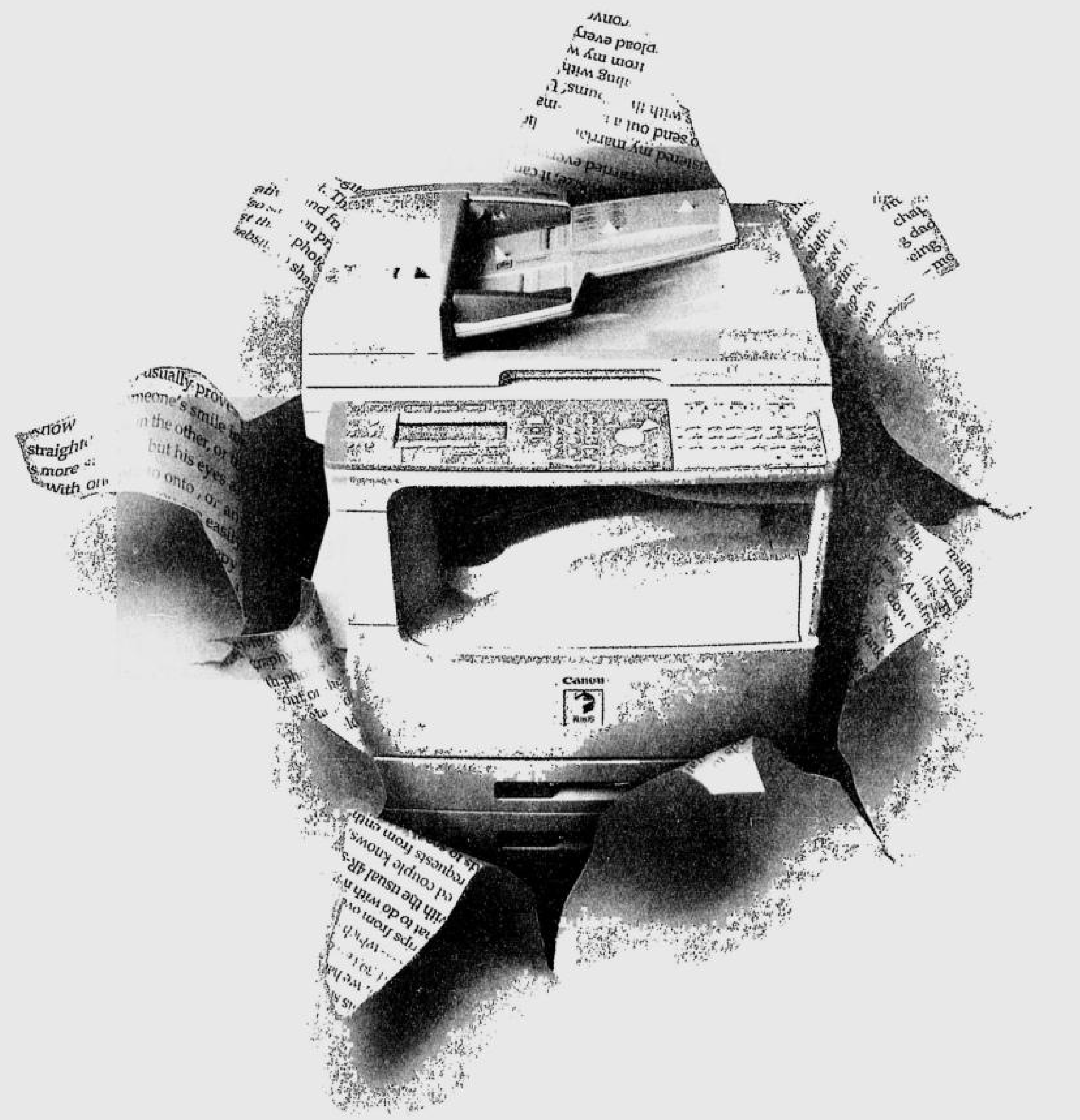

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Sanctions will depend on cager's reason–Eala

By June Navarro

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday backed down from his hard line stance to sanction players failing to appear in the PBA Camp on Jan. 10

He said he would excuse absentees as long as their reasons are convincing.

"We will evaluate the circumstances surrounding a player's non-appearance. If his reasons are valid, then the player will not receive any form of penalty," Eala told the INQUIRER.

It was a virtual turnaround from a previous report quoting Eala as saying he would impose sanctions to anybody skipping the PBA Camp.

Eala clarified that the policies of the PBA on the PBA Camp, which is designed to showcase the wares of the 67 applicants, would become the bases for future PBA Camps.

The PBA Camp on Jan. 10 is set at the parking lot of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, while the PBA Draft will take place at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City on Jan. 12.

"It's a matter of institutionalizing the policies of the PBA Camp and the Draft. These rules will serve the PBA in good stead in the coming years," he said.

Eala also said that PBL players should not be bothered by the consequences since he said he hasn't "enumerated the penalties yet."

"There were criticisms about what came out in the papers. But think about it, I didn't even mention what the sanctions are. So why make a big deal out of it?" said Eala.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad had earlier challenged Eala's authority to sanction players who will miss the PBA Camp.

"Applicants are not yet considered PBA players, so why impose penalties on them at all?" said Trinidad, whose dynamic leadership in tandem with PBL chair Dioceldo Sy has made the PBL stronger than ever.

PBL players who are expected to miss the PBA Camp are Welcoat's Eddie Laure, Ronald Tubid and Rommel Adducul. Other players affected by the Camp are ICTSI's Adonis Sta. Maria and Cyrus Baguio of Dazz.

Lhuillier, Spring join Sinulog Cup

DEFENDING champion M. Lhuillier and reigning national titlist Spring Cooking Oil banner the eight-team field in the NBL-CBL Sinulog Cup basketball tournament set in Cebu City on Jan. 21 to 26.

The other contenders are Forward Taguig, Wangs Ball Club, Kwarta Padala, Ozamiz City, Cagayan de Oro City and University of the East.

The UE Warriors, winner of the Bantay Bata and Champions League last year, is a guest team in the tourney which serves as a final preview of the National Basketball League's First Conference slated on Feb. 22 to March 2 in Metro Manila.

National shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla has been tasked to organize the NBL event being the organization's vice president.

Veteran coach Arturo Valenzona has been tapped as NBL commissioner with Anthony Sulit as technical committee head.

M. Lhuillier, Kwarta Padala, Spring Cooking Oil and Wangs are among the regular members of the NBL, which will stage its Second Conference on March 22 to April 6 in Visayas and Mindanao.

Lhuillier is favored in the Sinulog tourney, but it is expected to encourage stiff opposition from the Metro Manila teams, led by Coach Tito Palma's Cooking Oil Masters.

High school phenom takes spotlight

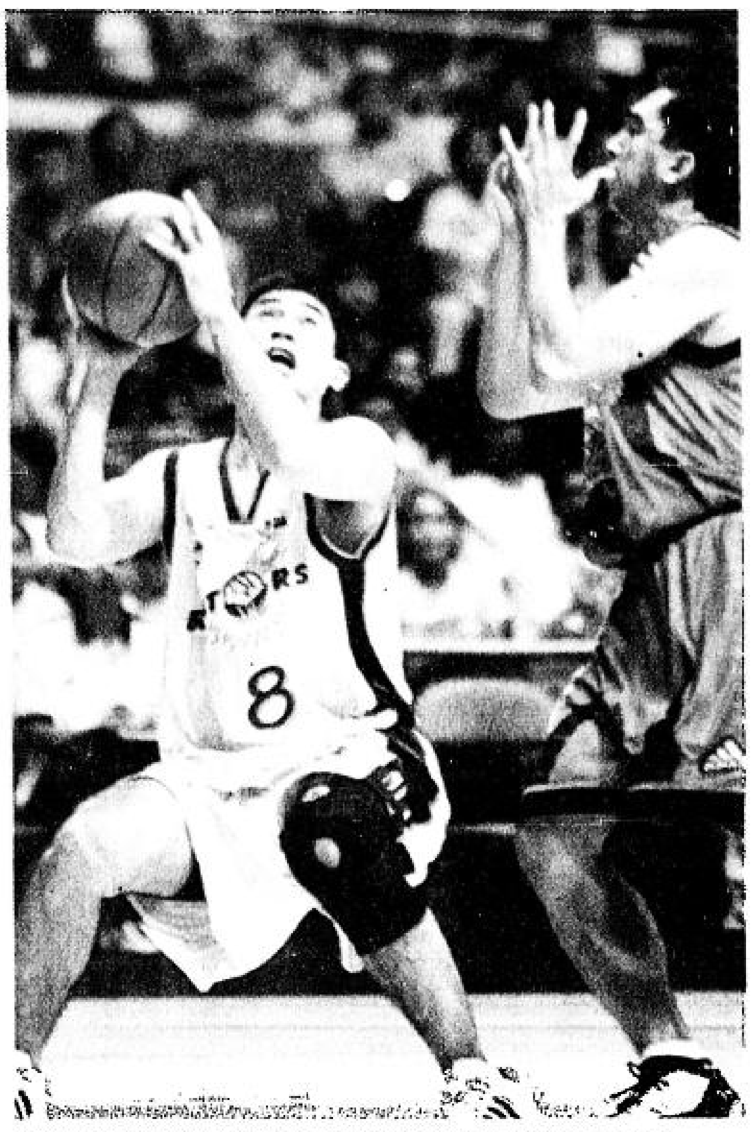
LOS ANGELES–LeBron James may still be years away from playing his first NBA game, but the hype surrounding the best schoolboy player since Michael Jordan has reached staggering proportions.

"He does a great job of deflecting all the attention," said Dru Joyce, who coaches James' Saint Vincent-Saint Mary High School team.

The biggest question about the 18-year-old from Akron, Ohio at the moment seems to be "is LeBron James a basketball phenom or a media phenom"?

The 2.03-meter (6-foot-8) James seems to relish being the center of attention and is not shy in front of the cameras.

Instead of running set plays or practicing free throws before games, James' pre-game routine looks more like a slam dunk contest. *AFP*



MENDOZA (left), shown here faking San Miguel Beer counterpart Boybits Victoria, plays a key role in Sta. Lucia's title drive. ROMY HOMILLADA

Sta. Lucia offers ₱20-M deal to Mendoza

By Dennis U. Eroa

BARRING any major hitch, playmaker Paolo Mendoza will sign a five-year contract worth P20 million with Sta. Lucia Realty, the team which made him the top pick in the PBA draft three years ago.

Mendoza, a film major graduate at the University of the Philippines, will arrive today after his holiday vacation in the United States.

Before leaving for Los Angeles, Mendoza said he prefers a longer contract.

"I am happy with Sta. Lucia and it will not be a problem if I'll retire with the team," Mendoza told the INQUIRER.

A source said the 6-foot Mendoza is amenable to a six-year contract.

Known for his prolific scoring and playmaking skills, Mendoza plays a crucial role in Sta. Lucia's bid to emerge as the PBA's top team.

Meanwhile, Talk N' Text is bent on forming a tougher, stronger team in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

For that, team sources said Talk N' Text management is open to the possibility of trading most of its players and leaving only a handful of reliable ones in a drastic bid to spruce up the Phone Pals' lineup.

Talk N' Text team manager Al Panlilio neither denied nor confirmed the talks but instead said the Phone Pals are open to such alternative as long as it would benefit the team in the long run.

"We are open to that option. If it's good for the team, then why not? But right now, we're undergoing the process of assessing the team and waiting for the draft before we make any move," Panlilio told the INQUIRER.

The Phone Pals, a source from another team said, are keen only on keeping man-mountain Asi Taulava, Mark Telan and Victor Pablo while the rest are up for barter.

Also, Mike Cortez, heralded as this year's top draft choice, is expected to attend the rookie draft camp on Jan. 10 at the SM Megamall.

Alaska is still torn between picking Cortez or a big man in the coming draft featuring former MBA cagers, Fil-Foreigners and dribblers from the PBL, the country's top amateur league.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Tonito Payumo beat Arius Alcaraz, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4, to win the 18-and-under plum of the 3rd Salvador Andrada Cup age-group tennis championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Also today in 1990, Antolin Fernando shot a 3-under-par 69 to post a 13-shot victory in the Marlboro Subic Open golf championship at the Binictican Valley course in Zambales.

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TENNIS GODFATHER

Olivarez vows to help RP squads

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE tennis continued to get blessings yesterday when its chair, former Parañaque Mayor Pablo Olivarez, vowed to help raise funds for the national men's and women's teams.

Less than a week after Philta president retired Col. Buddy Andrada got a fresh four-year mandate, the association got another big boost through Olivarez, who unveiled his program for Philippine tennis.

"I believe that through Col. Andrada's leadership, Philta is on its way to regain the glory it once had in Southeast Asia," said Olivarez, who is building a 4,000-seater arena that could host big international tennis events like the Davis Cup.

Olivarez added that he will help revitalize programs on each Philta regions through incoming national coach for nationwide grassroots development program Jovy Mamawal.

He also promised to lavish benefits to all the tennis clubs in the country as long as they register with the Philta. There are approximately 500 unregistered clubs all over the country.

The news came just in time for the RP preparation for the Davis Cup tie in China next month. The Philippines is also set to host the Davis Cup in April whether it wins or loses the match against China.

Aside from the current programs of the Philta scheduled throughout the year, Olivarez is also holding several tournaments through his Olivarez indoor courts program.

Among his planned tourneys, which he will integrate with the Philta calendar, are the men's open, veteran's tournament, inter-club competition and age-group tennis circuit.

"This is the time we make concrete actions to our vow to resurrect tennis," said Olivarez, who also offers the use of his world-class indoor tennis facilities in Parañaque to the national teams.

Olivarez, whose children Eva, Edna and Edwin have played for the country during their youth, was Philta president before Andrada replaced him in 1986.

Meanwhile, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games will push through despite President Arroyo's declaration not to run in 2004.

He added that the biennial games is already a "national priority." Likewise, Buhain stressed that the Palarong Pambansa and Batang Pinoy will not be scrapped because they are part of the pyramidal development programs for youth athletes.

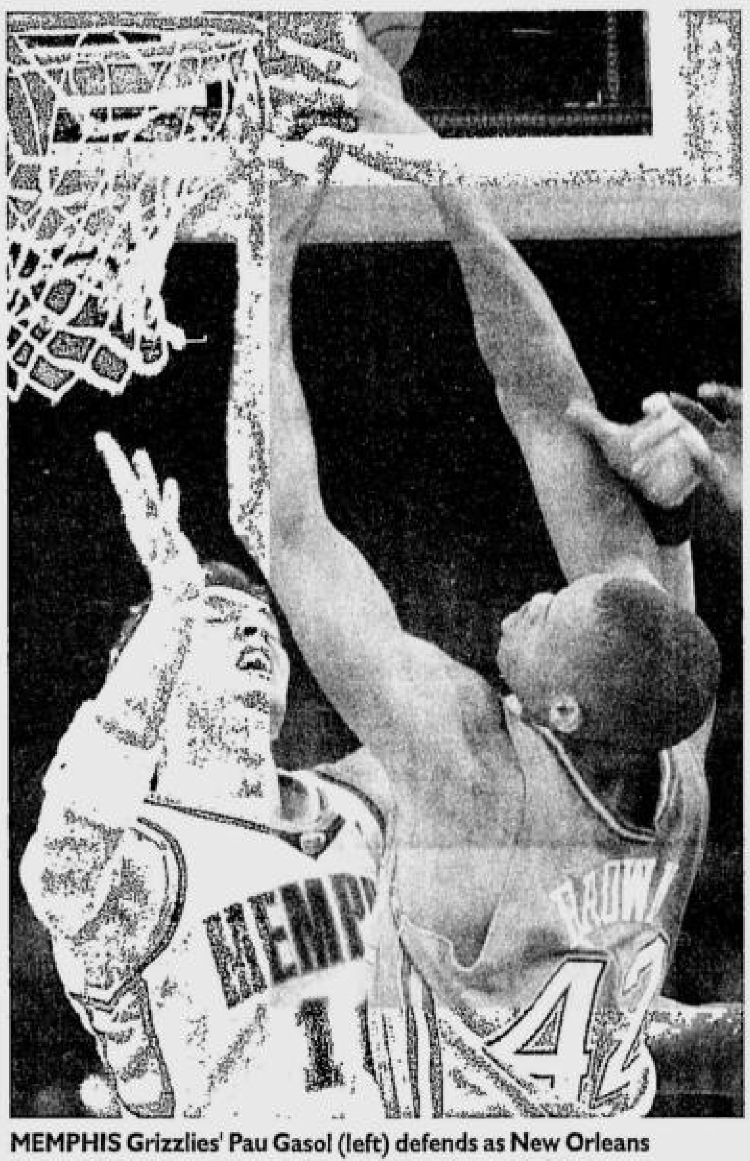
OLIVAREZ

Lakers shown on Solar

STILL searching for their championship form and reeling from seven losses in their last 12 games, the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers face another tough foe, the Seattle Supersonics, at 11:30 a.m. today on the Solar Sports, Network (Channel 29 on Skycable and Homecable), with a replay at 8 p.m.

In what has been an unpredictable season, the three-time champion Lakers have crashed to the NBA's basement with a 14-20 win-loss record that is just two victories out of last place in the Pacific Division.

Superstars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant now face one of the biggest challenges of their reign as NBA champions: to overcome LA's horrible start and make it to the NBA Playoffs to defend their title.



MEMPHIS Grizzlies' Pau Gasol (left) defends as New Orleans Hornets' P. J. Brown goes up for a shot during their NBA game Monday night in Memphis. Complete results: Washington 100, Boston 95; Indiana 105, Philadelphia 104 (OT); Orlando 103, New York 100; Milwaukee 106, Cleveland 94; New Jersey 101, Atlanta 94; Detroit 82, Toronto 74; Memphis 106, New Orleans 102; Chicago 113, Utah 98; Dallas 86, Denver 71; Golden State 99, Miami 85. AP

Yap heads aspirants

THE COMING exodus of national team prospects to the pro ranks doesn't worry Philippine team head coach Aric del Rosario a bit. He feels there are more than enough talented players to represent the country in international competitions this year.

"I'm happy with what I am seeing during the tryouts. There are plenty of good players and all are eager to strut their stuff," said Del Rosario.

Among those seeking spots to the 18-man national pool are UE hotshot James Yap, FEU stalwart Arwind Santos, John O's Ranidel de Ocampo and Celino Cruz, San Beda's Arjun Cordero and Welcoat's Jean Marc Pingris.

Del Rosario said tryouts are still going on daily from 8-10 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Helping him conduct the tryouts are assistant coaches Boyzie Zamar and Dong Vergeire.

Completing the coaching staff are Aric's son Lester and Boy Ong.

Roy Luarca

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Seattle vs LA Lakers, 11:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Soalr Sports

TENNIS: ATP Tata Open, 7 a.m. (r), Star Sports

GOLF: PGA - Short Game Masters, 1:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour, 7:30 p.m., Star Sports

PGA - Best of Sudden Death Playoffs, 8:30 p.m., Star Sports

PGA Grand Slam Of Golf 2002, 9 p.m. (r), Star Sports

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour, 1 p.m. (r), ESPN

USA vs Europe Tenpin Bowling 2002, 4 p.m., ESPN

Hewitt joins Australian Open

THE TOP-RANKED men's and women's tennis players in the world, Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and Serena Williams of the USA, lead an elite field that will compete in the first grand slam of the 2003 tennis season, the Australian Open, starting on Jan. 13.

(Games will be aired on the Solar Sports Network, Channel 29, for the duration of the two-week tournament.)

Top-seeded Hewitt, winner of Wimbledon last year and the US Open in 2001, is gunning for his first-ever Australian Open title. But the celebrated 21-year-old who has earned over $10 million from tennis has always struggled on his home turf. Despite massive crowd support, he has never gone past the fourth round in the Australian Open.

SPORTSWATCH

Paragua versus Milo bets

GRANDMASTER candidate Mark Paragua will play simultaneous exhibitions this coming Saturday, Jan. 11, against the early enrollees of this year's first series of Milo Checkmate. Paragua who has an ELO rating of 2504, 17 points behind No.1 GM Joey Antonio and 15 points behind GM No.2 Eugene Torre, will start his simul at 9a.m. at St. Benedict College HS Lounge in Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa. He will proceed to Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (NAS Office) on Adriatico Street, Manila at 11:30 a.m. for his next simul and then to Greenhills Shopping Center (fishing wharf) at 4 p.m.

Top HS teams in chess Open

THE COUNTRY'S top high school teams will show their wares in the first ever High School Chess Team Open tournament on Feb. 6-9, 2003 at the multi-purpose gym of the Philippine Science High School along Agham Road in Diliman, Quezon City. Organizing the tournament, which is open to public and private schools, are the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. in cooperation with the Grandmaster Eugenio Torre Chess Institute . For details, contact Acca project coordinator Sanlata Lachica at 892-9091 or tournament director NM Robert Suelo Jr. at 892-8759 or email: acca@info.com.ph.

Luzon soccer finals today

DAET, Camarines Norte—Quezon provincial champion Southern Luzon Polytechnic College Laboratory High will meet Camarines Norte titlist Vinzons Pilot High at 1:30 p.m. today at the Eco athletic field here for a berth in the Luzon Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football finals. The winner will join four other champions from the National Capital Region, Rizal, Masbate, Laguna and the winner of the Baguio-Tarlac match in the Luzon finals set on Jan. 21-25 at the Philsports complex in Pasig City.

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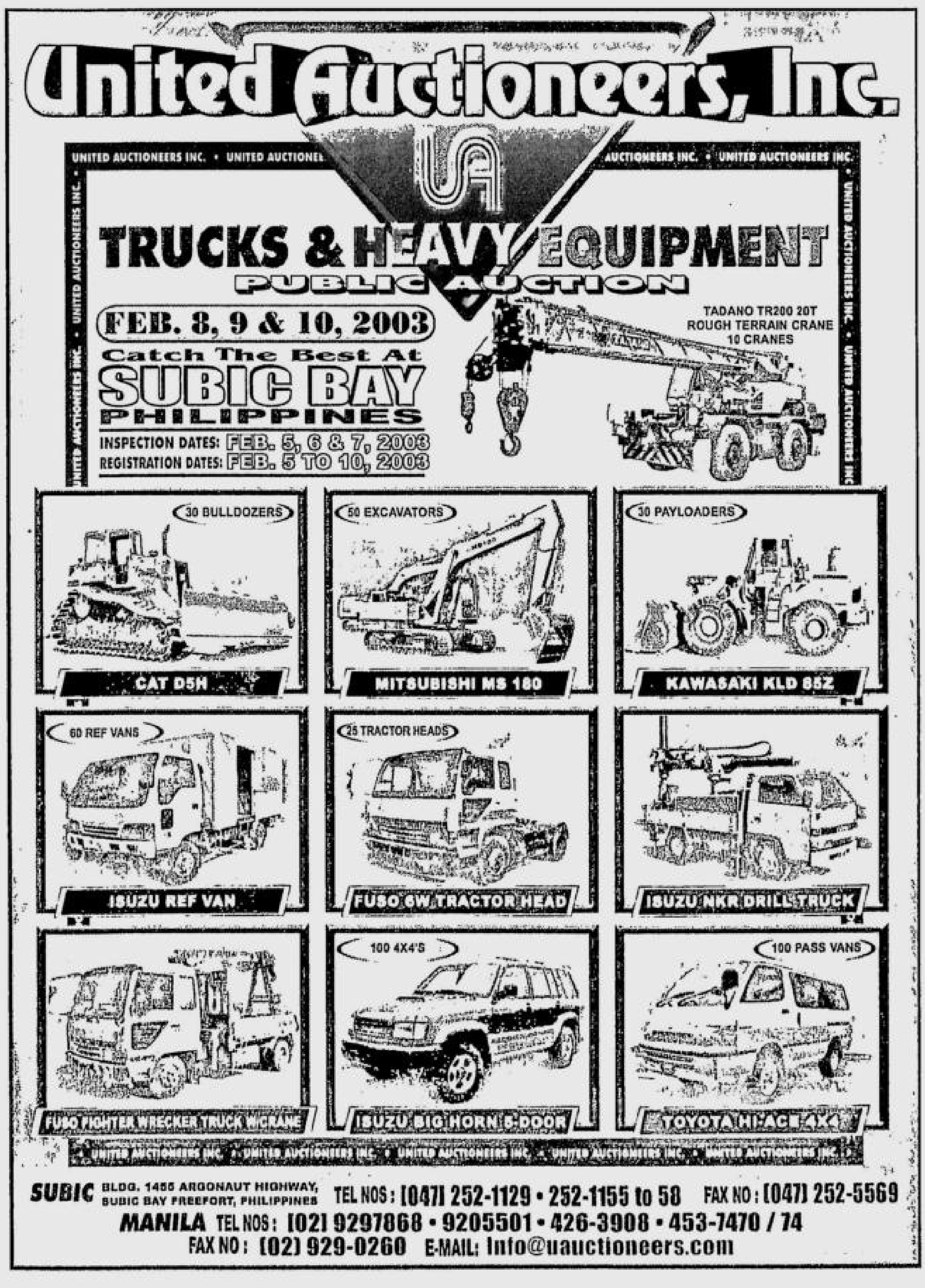
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Urban poor still see BF as threat

By Christian Esguerra

EVEN if Bayani Fernando takes on the helm of the Department of Public Works and Highways, more informal settlers would lose their homes.

The Urban Poor Associates expressed this fear yesterday with the reported impending transfer of Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, to the DPWH.

As it is, thousands of squatters already stand to lose their houses when the government fully implements its flood-control projects at the Pasig River area, northern Metro Manila, and in areas surrounding the Laguna Lake, according to UPA assistant coordinator Ted Añana.

While moving Fernando to the DPWH would probably give vendors and squatters in the metropolis a break from relentless demolitions, he said the transfer would, in effect, spell doom to the urban poor nationwide in the long term.

"The perceived gains of people here in Metro Manila would then be a loss to those in the provinces because they would be affected by Fernando's inhumane policies," he told the INQUIRER. "They, too, might lose their homes without being consulted by the government."

By appointing Fernando as DPWH secretary, President Macapagal-Arroyo would further strengthen his authority to drive away squatters, including sidewalk vendors, Añana noted.

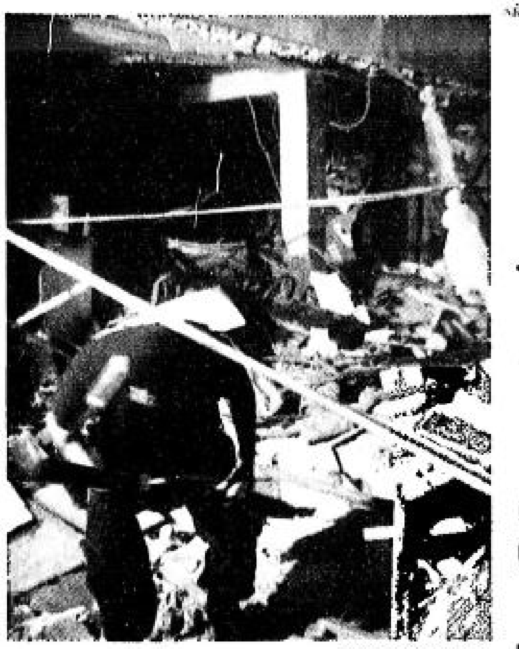
"We hope the President would reconsider her decision to appoint Fernando (as DPWH secretary)," he said. "We need one who would be willing to dialogue first before destroying houses and livelihood, someone who's willing to listen."

At the DPWH, Fernando would also have jurisdiction over the government's infrastructure projects that would affect poor families all over the country, according to him.

These programs, he said, would include multimillion-peso flood-control projects.

But even before he could officially accept the Public Works post, Fernando had already warned of intensified drive against squatters, especially those clogging waterways such as the Pasig River.

"We're not really against the government's resolve to clean up our waterways in time for the rainy season," Añana said. "We only want the government to give us sufficient relocation sites."



RANDY HORMILLOSA

A FIRE investigator goes through what's left of this junk shop in Sta. Ana, Manila, where workers set off an acetylene tank, while tinkering with a World War II bomb.

Acetylene tank explodes in Sta. Ana; 14 hurt

By Philip Tubeza

THEY were lucky that the bomb did not explode.

Workers of a junk shop in Sta. Ana, Manila were reportedly tinkering with a bomb left over from World War II. But as they were looking over the vintage ordnance, one of the smoking workers accidentally lit up an acytelene tank that exploded.

Fourteen people were injured, including a a three-month-old girl, police said.

Fortunately for them, the bomb did not detonate despite the strong explosion.

Vicente Macato, 29, owner of the Macato Junk Shop in Barrio Bagong Sikat, Sta. Ana, and his helpers Rene Lazaro, 32, and Henry Mali, 34, suffered facial burns, police said.

The injured children were identified as Nilo Bonillo, 3 months, Martin Gabriel, 1, Edward Macato, 2, John Vincent Macato, 3, Gabriel Perez, 4, Joshua Kabigting, 6, and Maria Maliti, 12.

The children and the other victims were taken to the Philippine General Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Mandaluyong Medical Center, and the Ospital ng Maynila.

Police said the explosion happened at around 7:45 p.m. while Macato and his helpers were tinkering with the bomb.

One of them allegedly opened an acetylene tank, forgetting that they were smoking.

The explosion ripped through the junk shop and damaged other houses in the area.

A certain Rolando Facudo allegedly sold the bomb to the junk shop.

Robbers cut off victim's fingers

By Tina Santos

THREE robbers took a fancy to the wedding ring Erlito Cantuba was wearing. But when the victim refused to give in, the robbers decided to chop off the victim's fingers instead.

According to Supt. Honorato Donato, head of the Northern Police District Office's Intelligence and Investigation Division, Cantuba, 59, a store owner, and resident of Caloocan City, not only lost his cash and valuables, he also lost his wedding ring to the robbers.

Donato said Cantuba was walking home on Langaray Street in Dagat-dagatan, when the robbers appeared at around 1 a.m. yesterday.

The victim was then forced to hand over his cash and valuables to the knife-wielding suspects, Donato said.

But Cantuba put up a fight when the suspects ordered him to remove his wedding ring and another gold band.

Sensing that the victim would not give in, two of the robbers grabbed Cantuba's left hand and, without a word, cut off his two fingers.

The suspects then casually walked away, police said. Concerned bystanders took the victim to the hospital.

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Gerry Peñalosa wins a bigger bout

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE FAILED again in his quest for a world boxing crown.

But two weeks after losing a second time to WBC super flyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama, Gerry Peñalosa bounced back to score the greatest triumph of his career.

He decided to retire.

He's 30 going on 31 in August.

Honestly, Gerry felt he still had a few good years of fighting in him.

There was also this rising opinion of him that he could go for the 115-pound crown, which continued to elude him, a fourth time.

Gerry struggled and had a terrible time deciding.

He had to wrestle, oh very hard, with himself, until humility and practicality prevailed.

***

Remember? Even Gabriel Elorde, considered by many as the greatest Filipino boxer ever, had to be forcibly retired. The Games and Amusements Board had to revoke Elorde's license after "Da Flash" refused to step out of the ring way, way past his prime. Muhammad Ali, flabby and tired, had to suffer the supreme shame of being reduced into a sham by Larry Holmes, his understudy, before "The Greatest" finally agreed to quit the ring.

There was always this intense reluctance to hang up the gloves.

The urge to stay on indefinitely was hardest to quell, mainly for a fighter who had known glory—and knew it could be recaptured with another big try.

Roberto Duran ended up selling hamburgers, his favorite meal, but so far has not officially quit the ring.

***

The luncheon at the Bayview Park Plaza on Roxas Blvd. on Monday was originally meant to formalize Peñalosa's break with sportsman Rudy Salud, his manager of four years.

The same affair, with selected members of the media in attendance, could've also served as an informal hearing on what went wrong in Peñalosa's last championship outing.

It turned into a dramatic farewell, with Gerry presenting a letter telling the GAB he's through with fighting and was thereby relinquishing his two titles, the WBC International crown and the North American super flyweight diadem.

There will also be a shake-up in the rankings of the WBA, where Gerry is the top contender, and the WBC which continued to rank him loftily.

***

He loved boxing but Gerry said boxing did not seem to love him.

That was not true.

If there were strong, sharp, ferocious fellows the muses of boxing had truly favored, Gerry Peñalosa was among them.

He was the sweet-punching, gifted, adorable virtuoso during his prime.

It would indeed be a thrill, a collector's dream, if they decided to compile the best fights of this one-time wonder boy who had the finest boxing practitioners, like Roy Jones Jr., swooning over his symphonic skills inside the ring.

Joe Cantada, who knew boxing best, called him the young Flash Elorde.

Jones, there at ringside when Gerry manhandled the tough Polo Saucedo, a former American flyweight champ, at the Foxwoods in Connecticut in 1998, readily demanded that Peñalosa fight in his card.

Gerry was indeed a treasure—when he still had the gifts of gold in his legs and swift fists.

***

No longer in my prime. That was all Gerry could say to explain where he stood now.

It would be too risky to go on fighting, so he decided to quit while he still could recognize and enjoy sweet reality around him.

You see, Gerry sincerely thought he won that last one against Tokuyama, although by a slight edge.

At least, he has finally come to realize that world crowns are wrested, taken away, and not captured by mere petty margins.

Well, Tokuyama would have not lasted the distance if he had met Peñalosa during Gerry's prime.

In Osaka on the night of Dec. 20, Peñalosa did try desperately to get reacquainted with that old self.

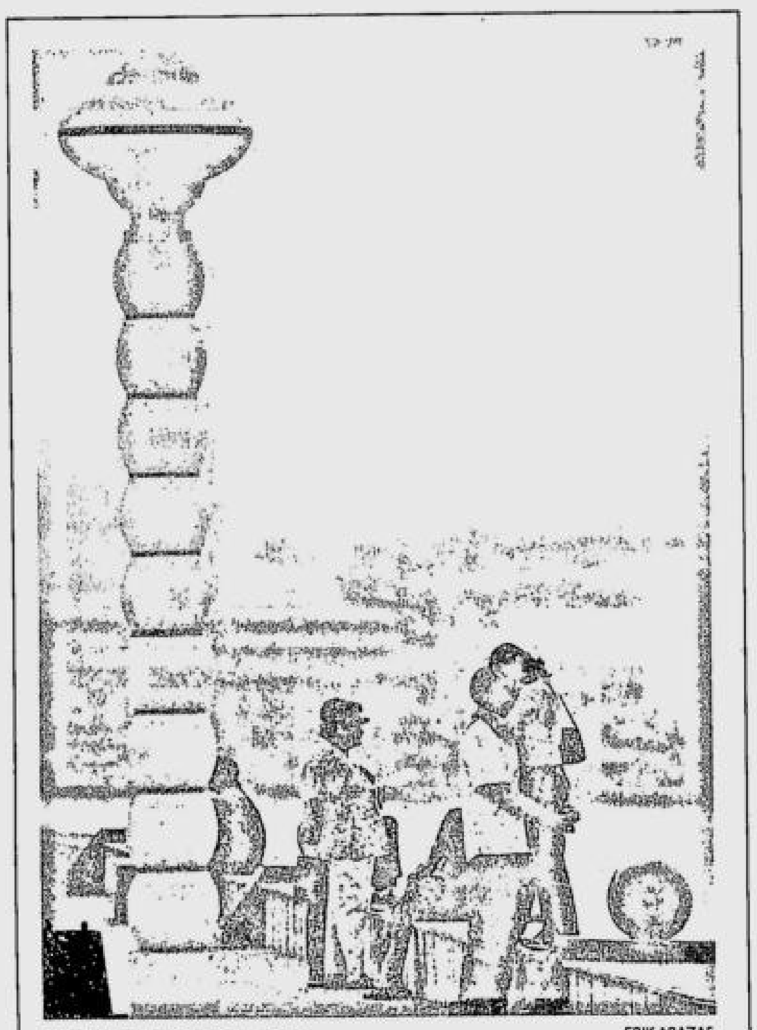
However, the sharp, swift, hard-hitting Peñalosa of old was nowhere near. He was many, many years divorced from the slow, tentative fighter out there.

The experts were right: Gerry Peñalosa might have matured too early.

At least, he now has a condo unit in Pasay, enough cash in hand, a house in Davao, a restaurant in General Santos where he plans to go into tuna selling business.

Of course, his greatest investments are the golden moments, among the finest by a Filipino on the international boxing stage.

Thanks for the memories, wonder boy.



ERIK ARAZAS

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

What this couple is doing may be illegal in some countries, but it appears just right in this quiet, breezy corner of Luneta Park in Manila.

Drug lab suspect falls

By Philip Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents yesterday arrested the suspected right-hand man of notorious Chinese drug lord Wang Yashi, tagged as the owner of the shabu laboratories the authorities raided recently.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men are now trying to find out if suspect James Chua, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, is related to Randy Chua, the owner of the Quezon City apartment which the lawmen raided on Friday.

During the arrest, the NBI-Narcotics Division agents also seized motor pumps which the lawmen claimed were used to dry shabu. But Wycoco could not say if they found illegal drugs in the suspect's possession.

At press time yesterday, Wycoco said he was still waiting for the operation report of his agents.

The NBI has been going after Yashi's group after authorities stumbled on the Valenzuela drug laboratory which was gutted in a fire on Dec. 9. Lawmen recovered P1 billion worth of shabu in the laboratory.

On Dec. 12, NBI agents and policemen raided a warehouse in Navotas, where the drug syndicate hid the ingredients for making shabu. They confiscated another billion worth of "shabu precursors" in the Navotas warehouse.

Last Friday, the lawmen raided a New Manila apartment which turned out to be a mini-laboratory and distribution center.

But the authorities were not able to catch Wang, who is from Mainland China, after he reportedly fled the country on the same day the fire broke out in the Valenzuela laboratory.

Wang's female associate, Deng Xiao Li, left on board a Philippine Airlines flight the following day.

Wycoco said the NBI would ask the Chinese authorities to locate the two suspects while local law enforcers hunt down their accomplices in the country.

Gun-toting motorist scares enforcer into coma

By Leila Salaverria

TRAFFIC enforcer Johnny Lao, 27, suffered a heart attack and went into a coma after he figured in an altercation with a gun-toting motorist.

Investigation showed that Lao, an enforcer of the Makati Public Safety Department was directing traffic at the corner of Gil Puyat Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City on Monday afternoon when he got into an argument with businessman Andresito Araneta Aguila, 35, a resident of McKinley Road, at around 3:30 p.m.

Lao's companion Mapsa traffic enforcer Hermogenes Tagudeña, 36, told police that as Lao was regulating traffic flow on Gil Puyat Avenue, he stopped Aguila who was driving a Range Rover. Aguila apparently did not like what Lao did, Tagudeña said, because he saw them arguing.

When Tagudeña went up to the two, he saw Aguila take out a gun and pointed it on the traffic enforcers, prompting Tagudeña to radio for back-up.

As Aguila was about to be taken to the police station, he backed up his car and hit Ronaldo Aquino, who was on a motorcycle. Aquino was taken to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment.

Aguila was then taken to the Community Precinct 9 with Lao and Tagudeña.

At the precinct, Tagudeña told the police he noticed that Lao was turning pale as the latter spoke with a field inspector. Lao was then rushed to the Makati Medical Hospital on suspicion that he was suffering from a heart attack.

In a report, SPO1 Ramoncito Ocampo quoted doctors as saying that Lao is comatose and suffers from chronic hypertension.

Aguila was taken to the Makati Police Headquarters for further investigation. Police recovered a Glock pistol and 13 live rounds from the suspect.

Pelayo, 72

ENGINEER and former Bureau of Lands Regional Director Flor Ulep Pelayo passed away on Jan. 6, 2003. His remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Parish in Las Piñas.

Interment is on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

Pelayo was 72 years old.

He is survived by wife Leonila and children Florito and Eleonor; Aristeo and Fe; Ramundo and Heide; Perla and Richelou, and Elenita Pilar.

Since his retirement from government service in 1986, Pelayo became a full-time "Lolo" to nine grandchildren.

A Holy Mass for Mr. Pelayo will be held on Thursday, 10:30 a.m. at the Good Shepherd Parish.

Oil depot may get new lease on life, dad warns

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA opposition councilor yesterday said that any attempt to revise the ordinance that closed the fuel depot in Pandacan will be "in bad faith."

Councilor Bernardito Ang was reacting to reports that Mayor Lito Atienza's administration is planning to have the City Council scrap or amend Ordinance 8027.

"It may appear that the Council sold out to the oil firms if ever that happens," Ang told the INQUIRER.

The 3rd district councilor, however, added that he has yet to hear the reported plan from his colleagues.

A coalition calling for the closure of the Pandacan facility accused City Hall the other day of trying to have the ordinance repealed or amended, effectively granting the oil depot a new lease on life.

The United Front to Oust the Oil Depot instead asked the mayor not to issue permits to operate in 2003 to the oil firms using the depot.

But the mayor earlier said that he is leaving that decision to the City Council.

Atienza added that the issuance of permits would depend on the oil firms' compliance with the MOU terms.

Ordinance No. 8027, which was to take effect on July 28, converted the site of the depot from an industrial to a commercial zone, disallowing the facility's continued operation.

The closure was halted when the executives of Petron, Caltex and Shell entered into a memorandum of agreement with Atienza on July 26.

The MOU allowed the oil firms to stay, but required them to reduce their operations by about 40 percent.

Another opposition councilor sued Atienza before the Ombudsman for signing the MOU, saying it could not supersede the ordinance.

The Social Justice Society, a lawyers' group, also asked the SC to force Atienza to implement the ordinance.

Like Ang, SJS President Samson Alcantara believes that revising the ordinance would be "of doubtful constitutionality."

"It would be tantamount to bargaining away the general welfare of the Pandacan residents just to favor the oil firms," he added.

Alcantara said the councilors "would have a hard time" explaining to Manila residents why they would reverse their earlier position that the oil depot ought to be closed because it could not be adequately defended from a large fire or a terrorist strike.

Manila struggles with unresolved issues

By Jerome Aning

A DEPOT, a garden and a park—these are the issues that have unsettled Manila the previous year and which remain unresolved to this day.

And no one can foresee how the issues will be settled, if at all, this year.

But however they turn out, the effects would not only be confined to Manila.

As historian Nick Joaquin used to say, "When Manila sneezes, the entire country catches a cold."

Thorns of development

Environment and cultural conservationist groups became the "thorns" that upset Atienza's development projects in 2002.

Under the mayor's "Buhayin ang Maynila" program, the city government beautified parks, lighted major streets, renovated public markets and launched an organized vending scheme.

But nature-lovers and culture preservers believed that any development project must not destroy Manila's rich cultural heritage and environment. They continue to block the mayor's efforts to construct buildings on the Mehan Gardens and the Arroceros Forest Park.

On Aug. 14, the National Historical Institute declared the Mehan a national historical landmark, virtually barring any construction on the park. The NHI cited Mehan for being the site of the Parian, the city's first "Chinatown," and of the Jardin Botanico, the city's first botanical and zoological garden.

Despite this, Atienza still wants to build the City Colleges of Manila's new campus on the park.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources continued to impose a fine of P50,000 daily on the company that erected the Park 'N Ride building on Mehan two years ago. The accumulated fined amounted P7.5 million as of October last year.

On Nov. 19, environment groups and their politician sympathizers rallied at the Arroceros Forest Park and vowed to resist the mayor's efforts to erect in the area a building for the city's public school teachers. They said the park is one of the remaining "oxygen lungs" and bird sanctuaries in the city.

Atienza still has to prove to his critics that development is a purely local government affair and that national agencies such as the DENR and the NHI should not meddle on how he runs his affairs.

Debate over depot

Two days before an ordinance converting the Pandacan oil depot site from industrial to commercial, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza signed a controversial memorandum of understanding with the oil firms running the facility.

Under the July 26 MOU, which the Department of Energy brokered, the parties recognized that scaling down the operations of the oil firms will address City Hall's security and development concerns in Pandacan.

Shell, Caltex and Petron promised to reduce their operations by as much as 40 percent. They were also required to dismantle 28 oil tanks that are located near the residential areas, establish a "green buffer zone" around the depot and work for a common storage and distribution facility.

The City Council ratified the agreement on July 25, despite protests by opposition aldermen, who argued that the MOU is illegal and could not supersede the ordinance.

In August, the INQUIRER came out with a story of how two small oil firms were given special business permits to withdraw fuel from their own storage facilities in Pandacan. Some 20 oil firms, which were not included in the MOU, were closed by City Hall.

On Aug. 16, opposition councilor Benjamin Asilo asked the Ombudsman to investigate Atienza for agreeing to the MOU. The Ombudsman's administrative and adjudication bureau found substance in the complaint on Oct. 10 and included as respondents DOE Secretary Vincent Perez and Manila's business promotions and development director Gerino Tolentino, whose office issued the temporary permits.

Asilo asked the Ombudsman on Nov. 19 to mete preventive suspension on Atienza while the investigation is being conducted. Gerino sued Asilo for perjury on Nov. 25, saying the councilor failed to say in his complaint that the Council approved the MOU.

Pandacan residents and non-government organizations formed on Dec. 12 a coalition—the United Front to Oust the Oil Depot—to press for the closure of the facility.

Meanwhile, the oil firms' threat to jack up fuel prices should they be abruptly relocated remains a reality.

Persecution for rebellion

While Malacañang harps on national unity and reconciliation, Ronald Lumbao, a supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada, continues to languish at the Manila City Jail while he is being tried for rebellion.

After hiding out for a year, Lumbao was arrested in Quezon City and was arraigned on July 10.

The leader of the People's Movement Against Poverty is implicated in the abortive siege of Malacañang on May 1, 2002. He is said to have goaded thousands of Estrada supporters into storming the palace to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Dubbed "Edsa Tres," the siege left two men dead and scores injured.

Last year's efforts by Lumbao's lawyer JV Bautista to quash the case and allow the urban poor leader to post bail remain unresolved by the court.

METROBRIEFS

Shot

FRUIT seller Anthony P. Ray was shot dead Sunday night in Quiapo, Manila by a fellow vendor after they fought over vending space. Sankadali Domran, 33, a native of Marawi City, used a homemade shotgun to shoot Ray, of Arlegui Street in Quiapo, said Detective Alfredo Salazar. The victim's wife, Teresita, told police that they went to the corner of Hidalgo Street and Quezon Boulevard to sell their wares on Sunday at around 7:15 p.m. But when they got there, they found out that Domran had occupied the space where they usually put up their stall. The victim confronted the suspect, which led to an argument. To end the heated exchange, Domran took out his shotgun and shot the victim in the back, Salazar said. Policemen arrested Domran as he tried to escape. *Philip Tubeza*

Stabbed

ARNOLD D. Mendoza, 32, was stabbed dead in a rumble that broke out in Tondo, Manila on Sunday. Romeo Henson and Ronald Jacay, both of Tondo, stabbed and killed Mendoza, of Barangay Obrero, Tondo, said Detective Rodelio Lingcong. Lingcong said the victim, his younger brother Allan and a certain Jaime Fajardo had just finished drinking at around 11:30 p.m., and were sitting on a bench on C. Namie Street when the suspects and another man, alleged members of the True Brown Style gang, passed by. The suspects allegedly provoked the victim and his friends, which led to a free-for-all. Later, the suspects fled, leaving Mendoza bleeding on the ground, Lingcong said. *Philip Tubeza*

Killed

NORLAND Mocorro and John Sonny Corpin, both employees of the GL Trucking Company, were stabbed dead when they tried to stop a pair of robbers in Navotas Sunday night, police said. Supt. Billy Beltran, Navotas police chief, said Mocorro, 19, a truck helper, and Corpin, 27, a driver, saw the suspects in the act of stealing truck spare parts and equipment at the trucking firm's office on C-3 Road, Navotas at around 6 p.m. When they confronted the suspects, the victims were met with a flurry of stabs, Beltran said. Mocorro and Corpin died of multiple stab wounds. Police said witnesses Ferlong Osmeña and Alex delos Santos, co-workers of the victims, said they could identify the suspects if they ever saw them again. *Tina Santos*

Mauled

JESUS Lafortez did not survive the mauling he received from teenagers whom he tried to stop from fighting in Quezon City on New Year's day. After five days in intensive care at the Quezon City General Hospital, Lafortez, 47, of Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, passed away on Sunday due to injuries he sustained last Jan. 1 at around 3:30 p.m. PO2 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District said the teenagers were fighting in the victim's neighborhood, when Lafortez decided to go out of his house to try to pacify them. But all the teenagers turned on Lafortez and beat him up till he slumped on the ground. Police are now looking for the youthful suspects. *Alcuin Papa*

Email: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

PSUCMI first annual convention

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine is inviting medical practitioners to attend its first annual convention on Feb. 10 to 13, at the Philippine Children's Medical Center. The theme of the convention is "Ultrasound in Clinical Practice: Innovations and Updates" and the objective is to be able to disseminate the knowledge of ultrasound practice to everyone from beginner to the advanced ultrasound professional.

The Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine Inc. (PSUCMI) was organized in 1997 and registered with the SEC in 1998. The founding members belong to the different specialties in need of diagnostic ultrasound such as in neurology, cardiology, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology. Radiologists are likewise welcome to join.

The PSUCMI is an affiliate society of the Philippine Medical Association. It is also affiliated with the Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB) and World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB). The society's aims are to promote the discipline of ultrasound in clinical medicine and to advance the art and science of ultrasound in medicine.

A distinguished panel of foreign and local speakers will be attending the convention. This includes Prof. Albert Lam (Australia), a renowned radiologist; Prof. Yoshishide Chiba (Japan), head of the National Cardiovascular Center; Prof. Hiroki Watanabe (Japan), president of WFUMB; Prof. Kittipong Vairojanavong (Thialand), president of AFSUMB; Dr. Lillian V. Lee (Philippines), executive director of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), a well known neurologist; Dr. Corazon Yabes-Almirante, president of PSUCMI and chair of the Perinatal Center of PCMC and Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, a pediatric cardiologist.

The first morning session of the convention will have a main plenary session, which will tackle "Ultrasound: The New Generation Stethoscope, Ultrasound Training Courses, 3D Ultrasound, Cerebral Hemodynamics, Hydrocephalus, and Congenital Heart Disease in Utero". The rest of the convention days will be divided into different modules, which include cardiology, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and neurology. Those interested may register for the plenary session in any module / modules of choice and advice to pre-register before Jan. 31 (20 percent discount to PSUCMI members). The contact number of the secretariat is tel./fax: 924-7952.

The present officers and member of the board of directors of PSUCMI are the following:

President:
Dr. Corazon Yabes-Almirante
Vice President:
Dr. Jose A. Robles
Secretary:
Dr. Amaryllis Digna O. Yazon
Treasurer:
Dr. Sol M. Pangan
PRO:
Dr. Edward N. Padilla
Board of Directors:
Dr. Lillian V. Lee
Dr. Edgardo E. Ortiz
Dr. Herminia L. Cifra
Dr. Ramon L. De Vera
Dr. Ceasar D. Tongo
Dr. Roberto N. Gan
Dr. Jonas D. Del Rosario
Dr. Marissa B. Lukban

STA. MONICA
Barangay Antipolo del Sur & Latag, Lipa City
Dec 3, 2002, 9:00 a.m.
LPHI
AND.INC Subsidiary

VILLA STA. MONICA LAUNCHED IN LIPA

The good life in Lipa promises to get a lot better. Villa Sta. Monica in Batangas was recently launched at its cool and scenic location in Lipa's barangays Antipolo del Sur and Latag. Another quality residential development of Laguna Property Holdings, Inc. (LPHI) the recognized leader and most preferred provider of quality shelters, Villa Sta. Monica is a private and secure residential community that is conveniently located near the city proper. This promises accessibility to vital facilities and destinations in Lipa while providing a safe, comfortable haven for those who have grown weary of the urban chaos. LPHI is a wholly owned subsidiary of real estate leader Ayala Land Inc. For inquiries, call 848-5071, 814-7451, 848-5173, 814-7497, 848-0972 or 864-LPHI. A time capsule is lowered into the ground during the Villa Sta. Monica's groundbreaking ceremonies. Photo shows:(from left) Conrad dela Fuente, LPHI-CMD manager; Helen Grace T. Lazo, LPHI-finance and admin SVP; Rosabella A. Abella, LPHI-project development division manager, and Prim B. Nolido, LPHI-project development manager.

BATIBOT GOES LIVE FOR 'KINDER PLUS' TOTS

Batibot goes live for 'Kinder Plus' pupils at the General Natividad Elementary School as a Christmas treat by the Community of Learners Foundation (Colf) for eight Nueva Ecija municipalities implementing the Kinder Plus project. 'Kinder Plus' is an inter-agency pilot project, implementing the new 'Early Years Act' which integrates essential factors such as health, education and parenting to help put pre-schoolers, especially from poor families, on the track of happy, fruitful lives.

Simple ways to beat stress: relax, refresh and recharge

THE UPBEAT attitude behind this saying fits Nestlé Lemonade, the delightful, healthy drink recently introduced by Nestlé. Identified by its cheerful "Lemon Head" logo, the new drink is a distinctive, delicious version of a classic beverage made by the world's largest food company, backed by the nutrition expertise that brings "Good Food, Good Life" to consumers who have come to trust Nestlé over the years.

Nestlé Lemonade hits the right spot for those times during the day when you need a different kind of drink that's non-carbonated and non-alcoholic, to help you relax, refresh, recharge. Since life often brings more than a fair share of stress, be it in school, at work, on the road, or at home, Nestlé Lemonade offers moments for "chilling out" to help you cope with the demands you face. It's perfect for those times during the day when you feel taking a breather would be a good idea, and it's a drink you can enjoy with school or work mates, family members and friends.

But speaking of stress, a fact of life, what exactly is it and how can you deal with it?

The dictionary defines stress as any stimulus, like pain, for example, that upsets your equilibrium. Stress is also defined as physical, mental or emotional tension.

While there are different options for coping with stress, you may wish to consider four areas: nutrition, exercise, environment and quality time. These are simple, doable ways for you to beat stress and maintain your balance. And don't forget that glass of Nestlé Lemonade to help you relax, refresh, recharge.

Ogie Alcacid in Tagaytay

ONE of the country's top balladeers, Ogie Alcasid, will take the center stage at Casino Filipino-Tagaytay on Saturday, Jan. 11. Ogie will perform together with MTV's best female artist Victoria and the newest boy band to hit the music scene, Casanova, as guest performers with Tats Faustino as musical director. The concert, titled "A Better Man: Live", is expected to cater to the young and the young-at-heart. It will be a night to remember for Batangueños since it will be the first time in many years that Ogie Alcasid, a fellow Batangueño, will perform for his homecrowd. The show is produced by Events & Shows Inc. in cooperation with Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

Known for such hits as "Dahil Mahal Kita", "Nandito Ako", "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," and countless other memorable songs, Ogie is revered in the music industry as a consummate performer and an all-around entertainer. His performance always fills international and local venues.

"A Better Man: Live" is brought to you by Sunrise Holiday Mansion, Air Philippines, Ford Philippines, McDonalds-Tagaytay and in part by Calebs Soul & Pepper Place, Marekho Corp., Alert General Services, Yakal Security Agency, Double M Construction. Media partners are Citylite 88.3, RX 93.1 and Magic 89.9.

Tickets are available in all SM Ticketnet outlets, Casino Filipino-Tagaytay Concierge Section, Sunrise Hotel-Tagaytay, McDonalds-Tagaytay and at Calebs Souls & Pepper Place-Ortigas, Pasig. Ticket prices are at P1000 and P800. For inquiries and reservations, you can call Events & Shows Inc. at 635-3790/ 688-4404/705-1751, 0916-531-4058 / 0917-449-5343 or Casino Filipino-Tagaytay at (046) 413-1103.

AFFAP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

THE ASSOCIATION of Former Flight Attendants of Philippine Airlines (Affap), the Affap Foundation and the PAL Cabin Service in-flight Center joint Christmas Shindig last Dec. 20 brought joy to an Ibanag who has been driving for the shuttle service for PAL flight attendants since 1996. Winner of the Toyota Revo SR is Leonardo "Boyong" Cabolonga, who is very happy that he will have a vehicle that can bring additional income. Former flight attendant Susan Gonzales-Levinson won the Philips 29" colored TV. The 11 cubic feet refrigerator goes to former flight attendant Lira Patrimonio-Guilatco. The fourth prizes of five standing electric fans went to Eduardo Limon; Angela Carr; Mike Dafwani, Maria Carmencita B. Escaño; and ticket number 2836 care of Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines (Fasap). The washing machine goes to Romel Juan and the family portrait by photographer Mandy Navasero to Tita Menesses-Trillo, Affap president. Photo shows the winner of the Toyota Revo SR Leonardo "Boyong" Cabolonga with Affap officers: (from left) Mandy Navasero, Linda Lorenzo, Nena Jones, Cristy Romero-Altura, Greta Soriano-Lauron, Carmen Laman-Miciano and PAL line administrator Elsie Mil-Escutin.

IBM CUSTOMERS ACQUIRE IBM SERVERS BASED ON INTEL

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and application service provider T-Systems recently acquired IBM xSeries x440 servers based on Intel Xeon processor MP. Introduced in 2002, the x440 is a powerful Intel processor-based server designed to meet the performance, reliability and scalability requirements of corporate data center customers. The IBM eServer xSeries x440 is designed with EXA technology for mainframe-like computing capabilities within the Intel-based platform. Shown are IBM and Intel officials with BPI and T-Systems representatives (from left) Christopher Syling, IBM Philippines eServer xSeries technical sales specialist, Dan David, IBM Philippines enterprise systems group country manager, Randee Gutana, T-Systems technical support and operations manager, Noel Tagaza, BPI vice president for e-commerce, Ricky Banaag, Intel Microelectronics Philippines country manager, and Paolo Lopez, Intel Microelectronics business development manager for Philippines and Thailand.

Product FILES

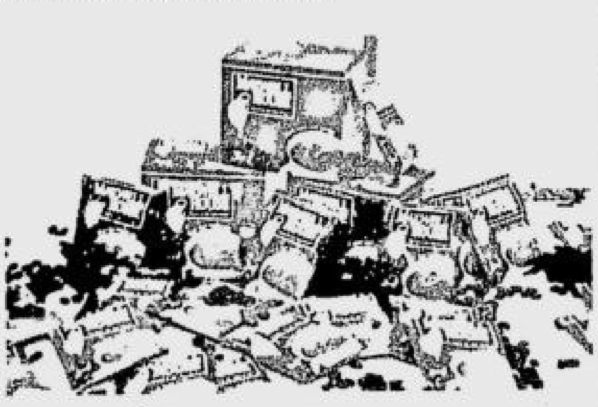
Kraft's Maxwell House 3in1 is the perfect coffee-on-the-go

WANT a piping hot cup of rich-tasting, full-bodied coffee but do not have the luxury of time to wait? Or worse, you simply cannot find the perfect blend? A problem no more. Simply reach out for a pack of the new Maxwell House 3in1 coffee mix. It gives you a cup of rich-tasting, aromatic coffee in an instant.

Kraft Foods Philippines Inc. (KFP), makers of Maxwell House, recognized that there is a growing need to provide 'quick' cups of coffee for those who are always on the go. The challenge, however, was to provide coffee-on-the-go that is not only easy to prepare but rich tasting as well. These are the very ingredients that make up the new Maxwell 3in1 coffee.

Maxwell House is traditionally known for high quality coffee, bearing this in mind, Kraft worked towards being the consumer's brand of choice as it took the richness of Maxwell House coffee and made it available in the more convenient and new 3in1 coffee mix pack.

Maxwell House 3in1 is perfect for today's men and women who lead fast-paced lifestyles but cannot do without a full-bodied, rich-tasting cup of coffee. It is now available in leading supermarkets, groceries and convenient stores nationwide.



Jaguar posts new sales record

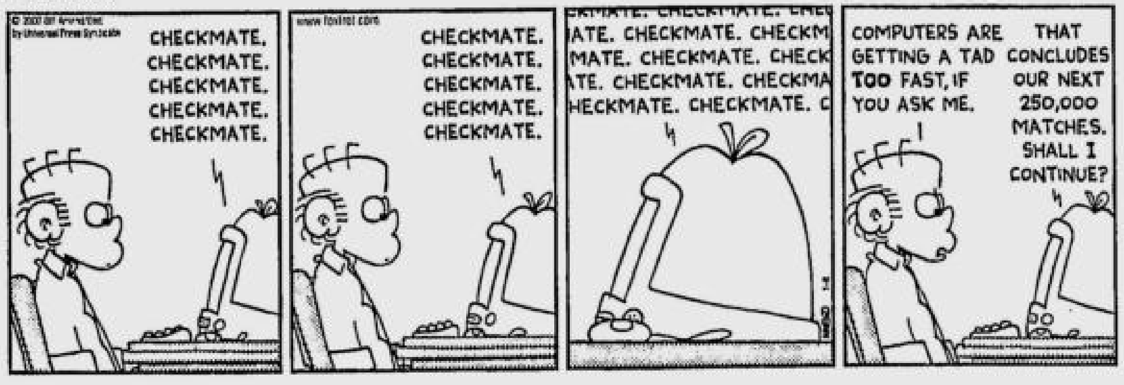
AT THE conclusion of the British International Motor Show, Jaguar announced a new all-time global sales record. Throughout three quarters of 2002, the Coventry-based premium car manufacturer surpassed last year's record-breaking 100,000 unit sales figure, selling a total of 102,189 cars in 65 markets around the world. This beats the record of 100,791 cars sold in the whole of 2001.

Some of Jaguar's biggest gains were in the Asia Pacific region. Sales in Japan increased by 77 percent to 3,823 cars, sales in Australia increased by 125 percent and sales in the Taiwanese market increased by 191 percent to 291 cars sold during the first three quarters of the year. One of the highest growth rates was posted in the Philippine market, where sales increased by over 200 percent. This incredible growth has been fueled by local fascination with the Jaguar brand and the warm reception of the new X-Type (shown left), the model specifically targeted at young buyers just entering the luxury car market.

The entire range of Jaguar vehicles is locally available from Jaguar Cars Inc., the sole authorized distributor of Jaguar in the Philippines. The Jaguar showroom is located at the ground floor, Enzo Building, 399 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue in Makati City.

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CHECKMATE. CHECKMATE. CHECKMATE. CHECKMATE. CHECKMATE.
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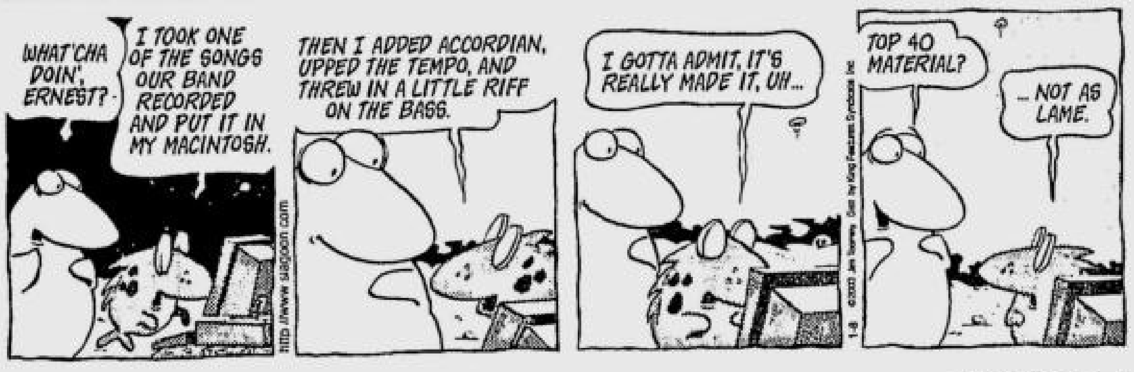
ATE. CHECKMATE. CHECKM MATE. CHECKMATE. CHECK ATE. CHECKMATE. CHECKMA HECKMATE. CHECKMATE. C
COMPUTERS ARE GETTING A TAD TOO FAST, IF YOU ASK ME.
THAT CONCLUDES OUR NEXT 250,000 MATCHES. SHALL I CONTINUE?
www.foxtrot.com

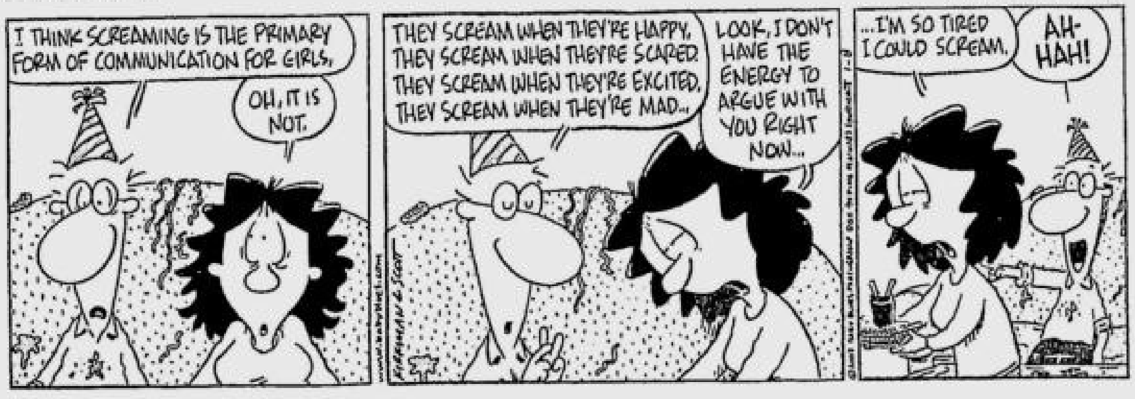
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'CHA DOIN', ERNEST?
I TOOK ONE OF THE SONGS OUR BAND RECORDED AND PUT IT IN MY MACINTOSH.
THEN I ADDED ACCORDIAN, UPPED THE TEMPO, AND THREW IN A LITTLE RIFF ON THE BASS.
I GOTTA ADMIT, IT'S REALLY MADE IT, UH...
TOP 40 MATERIAL?
...NOT AS LAME.
http://www.slagoon.com

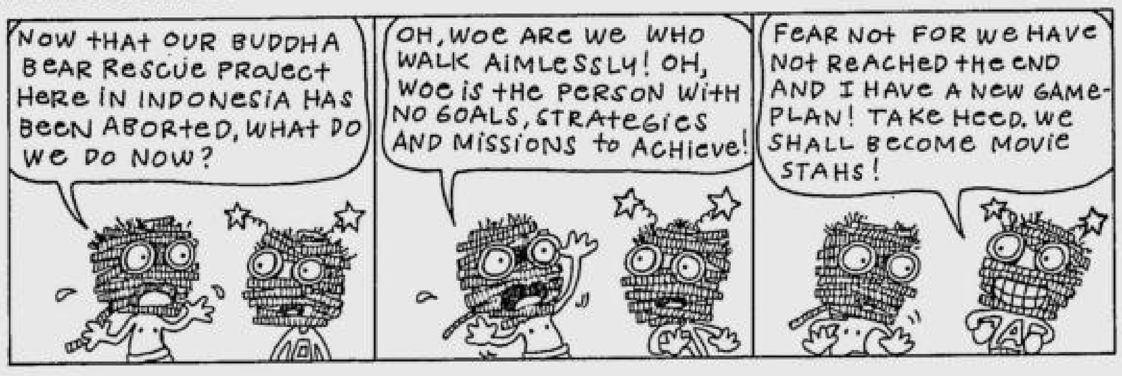
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I THINK SCREAMING IS THE PRIMARY FORM OF COMMUNICATION FOR GIRLS.
OH, IT IS NOT.
THEY SCREAM WHEN THEY'RE HAPPY. THEY SCREAM WHEN THEY'RE SCARED. THEY SCREAM WHEN THEY'RE EXCITED. THEY SCREAM WHEN THEY'RE MAD...
LOOK, I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO ARGUE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW...
...I'M SO TIRED I COULD SCREAM.
AH-HAH!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


NOW THAT OUR BUDDHA BEAR RESCUE PROJECT HERE IN INDONESIA HAS BEEN ABORTED, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
OH, WOE ARE WE WHO WALK AIMLESSLY! OH, WOE IS THE PERSON WITH NO GOALS, STRATEGIES AND MISSIONS TO ACHIEVE!
FEAR NOT FOR WE HAVE NOT REACHED THE END AND I HAVE A NEW GAME-PLAN! TAKE HEED. WE SHALL BECOME MOVIE STAHS!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ami Dolenz, Elvis Presley, David Bowie, Yvette Mimieux

Happy Birthday: Don't overreact to small and insignificant situations this year. You will be able to make changes, but you must take the time to plan your actions carefully. Put aside some time to focus on the projects and people that you find most enticing. Your numbers are 1, 13, 24, 26, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can take advantage of a good deal, but don't overspend in the process. If you can't afford something, take a pass. Don't lend money or possessions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will have to concentrate today if you want to get things done. You may make an incorrect assumption that could lead you in the wrong direction. Go it alone today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is not the day to exaggerate. Someone who knows the real story will confront you. If you aren't careful you may be blamed for something you didn't do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be sensitive to what others are experiencing. If you try to help someone with his or her problems, you may find yourself stressed out and exhausted. Gauge your time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should really consider your health and well-being today. You will be able to finish projects that mean something to you. A new relationship looks promising.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): By taking a responsible approach to the way you do things, everyone will want to be on your team. Relationships can develop if you are interested in the advances being made by an admirer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch your back. Someone you do business with may try to make you look bad. Don't let anyone take you for granted or take advantage of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you don't like something that someone is doing, keep an eye out but don't stoke the fire. Do a little soul-searching and decipher if you may be partly to blame for this person's actions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opportunities are present and changes appear to be beneficial. Check into any financial ventures that interest you. The bolder you are today, the more likely you are to achieve success.

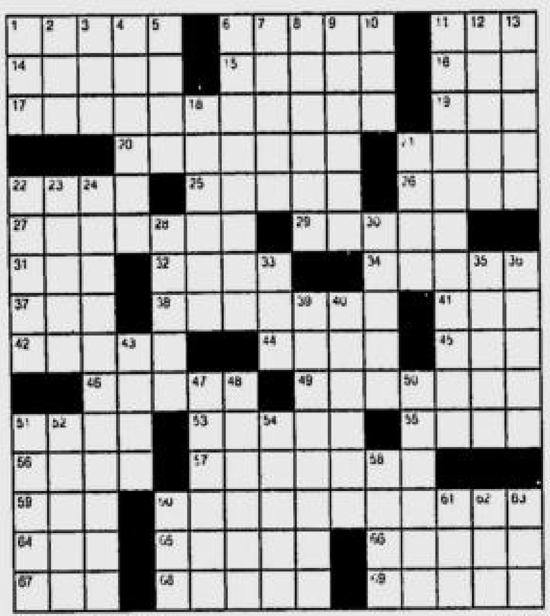
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be viewing everything as a race today. Your attitude is changing rapidly and you have probably taken on way too much. Step back and decide what's important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your competitive nature will pay off. Romance is apparent, so don't be afraid to let someone you care about know exactly how you feel. Minor mishaps due to carelessness are likely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may misplace money or jewelry if you aren't extremely careful today. Take your time and make sure everything is done properly. If you rush, mistakes are likely.

Birthday Baby: Your determination and sheer desire to make the most of yourself and your future will lead to wise choices and lots of preparation. You will not leave anything to chance.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

1/8/03

ACROSS
1 Stomachs of ruminants
6 Actress Pola
11 Jay follower
14 Find a new tenant for a flat
15 Time-waster
16 Calamity
17 Music unit, more phonetically
19 Supply with weapons
20 Revolutionary Che
21 Feed the kitty
22 Screen siren Sommer
25 Mr. Arafat
26 Getz or Kenton
27 "Moonstruck" director
29 Farewell in Rouen
31 Radio static, in brief
32 End of demo?
34 Brazilian dance
37 950
38 Ushers after intermission
41 Actor Canou
42 Carpathian range
44 Irish Rose lover
45 Actor Wallach
46 Poetic feet
49 Winding courses
51 All: pref.
53 Metal bolt
55 Fencing sword
56 Omen
57 Menacing
59 Liturgical robe
60 Library phrase, more phonetically
64 Holy cow!
65 Amazed
66 Ah, __ to you!
67 Afore
68 Nervous
69 Be flexible

DOWN
1 Scot. island
2 West Coast seagull
3 In the style of
4 Composer Rachmaninoff
5 Aleutian island
6 Seventh heavens
7 Ferber and O'Brien
8 Laura Branigan hit
9 Slow down
10 Rage
11 Bakula series, more phonetically
12 Big vessel
13 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
18 Friend of Pooh
21 On the main
22 Deplane fast
23 Glossed term
24 Sewing group, more phonetically
28 Beat it!
30 Japanese emigrant
33 British time
35 Ball VIP
36 Flavoring seed
39 Not in residence
40 A-one
43 Downpour
47 "Religio Medici" author
48 Apelike
50 Add grass
51 Type of orange
52 Bannister, e.g.
54 Opinions
58 Arm bone
60 Baby fox
61 Mr. Parseghian
62 Gas additive's letters
63 Founded: abbr.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	P	E	■	A	B	L	E	■	A	D	A	P	T
H	I	E	D	■	F	R	O	G	■	R	E	V	U	E
I	D	E	A	■	L	O	N	G	■	D	E	I	C	E
C	A	L	M	S	O	N	E	S	N	E	R	V	E	S
■	■	■	■	W	A	X	■	■	O	N	E	■	■	■
R	A	B	B	I	T	■	C	L	O	T	■	A	P	T
I	D	L	E	S	■	T	O	E	S	■	A	L	L	Y
S	O	O	T	H	E	S	O	N	E	S	S	O	U	L
E	R	A	S	■	R	A	T	S	■	T	H	E	M	E
S	E	T	■	M	A	R	S	■	G	E	Y	S	E	R
■	■	■	O	U	T	■	■	A	L	P	■	■	■	■
L	U	L	L	S	O	N	E	T	O	S	L	E	E	P
A	N	O	D	E	■	A	V	O	W	■	A	C	M	E
S	T	A	I	R	■	P	I	N	E	■	W	H	I	T
H	O	N	E	S	■	S	L	E	D	■	N	O	T	E

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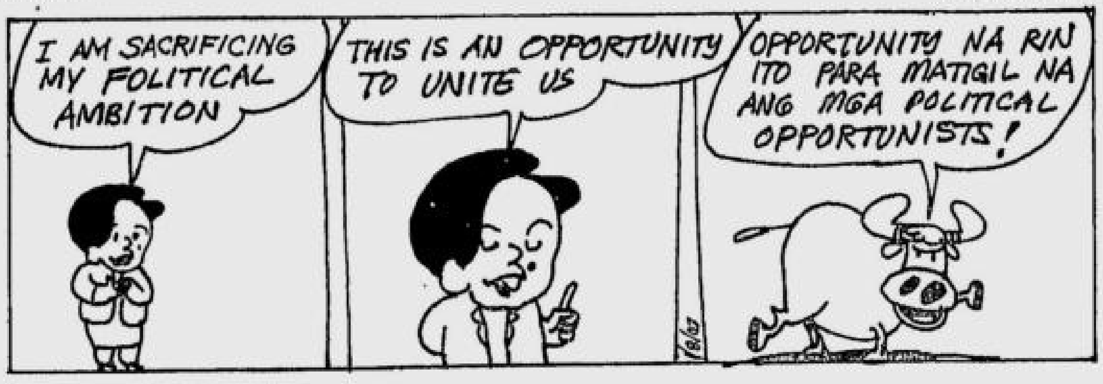
1/8/03

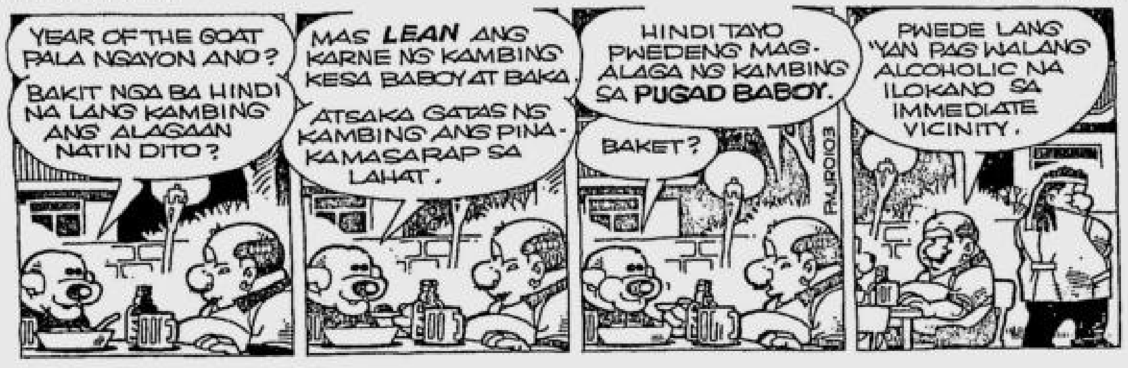
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


I AM SACRIFICING MY POLITICAL AMBITION
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNITE US
OPPORTUNITY NA RIN ITO PARA MATIGIL NA ANG MGA POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS!

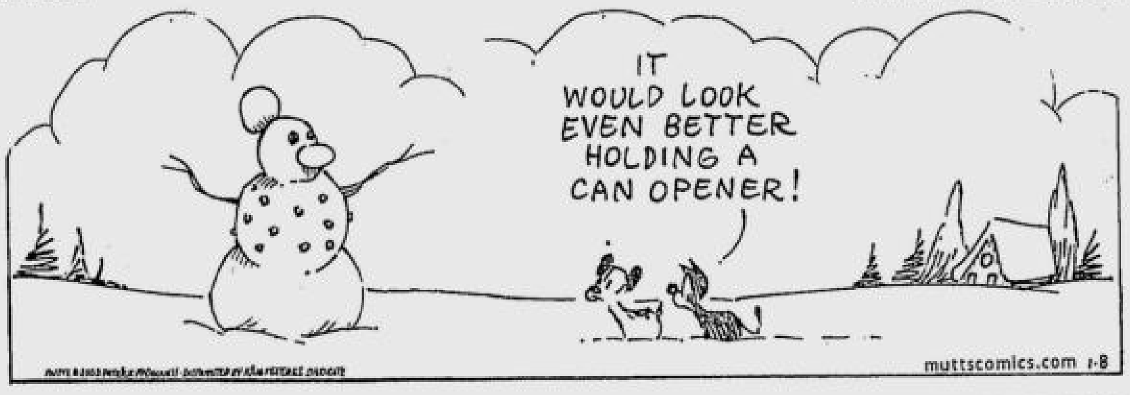
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


YEAR OF THE GOAT PALA NGAYON ANO?
BAKIT NGA BA HINDI NA LANG KAMBING ANG ALAGAAN NATIN DITO?
MAS LEAN ANG KARNE NG KAMBING KESA BABOY AT BAKA.
ATSAKA GATAS NG KAMBING ANG PINAKAMASARAP SA LAHAT.
HINDI TAYO PWEDENG MAG-ALAGA NG KAMBING SA PUGAD BABOY.
BAKET?
PWEDE LANG 'YAN PAG WALANG ALCOHOLIC NA ILOKANO SA IMMEDIATE VICINITY.
PMJR0103

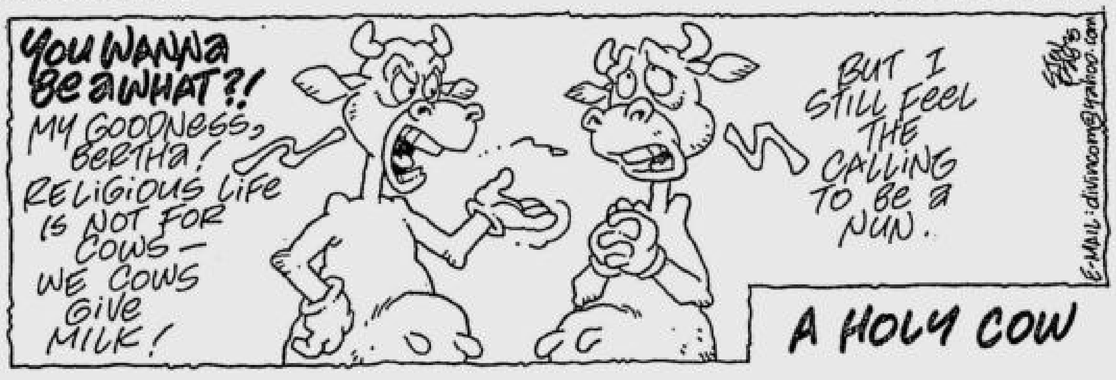
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT WOULD LOOK EVEN BETTER HOLDING A CAN OPENER!
muttscomics.com 1-8

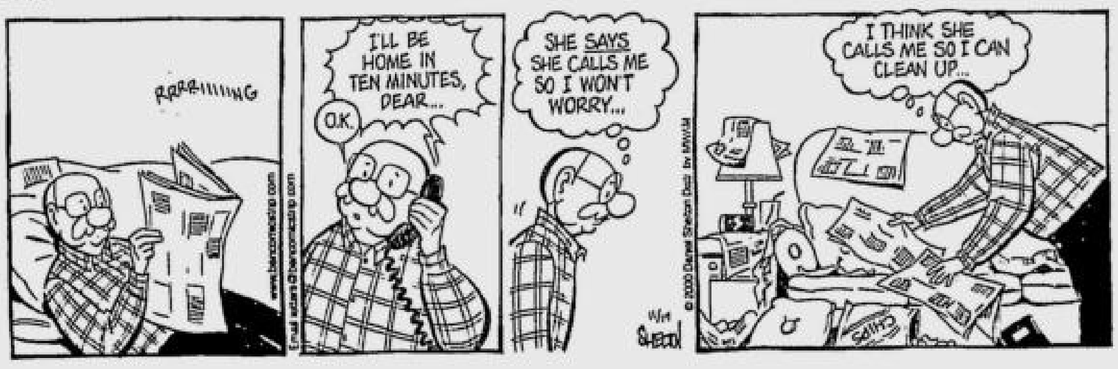
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU WANNA BE A WHAT?! MY GOODNESS, BERTHA! RELIGIOUS LIFE IS NOT FOR COWS — WE COWS GIVE MILK!
BUT I STILL FEEL THE CALLING TO BE A NUN.
A HOLY COW
E-MAIL: divincom@yahoo.com

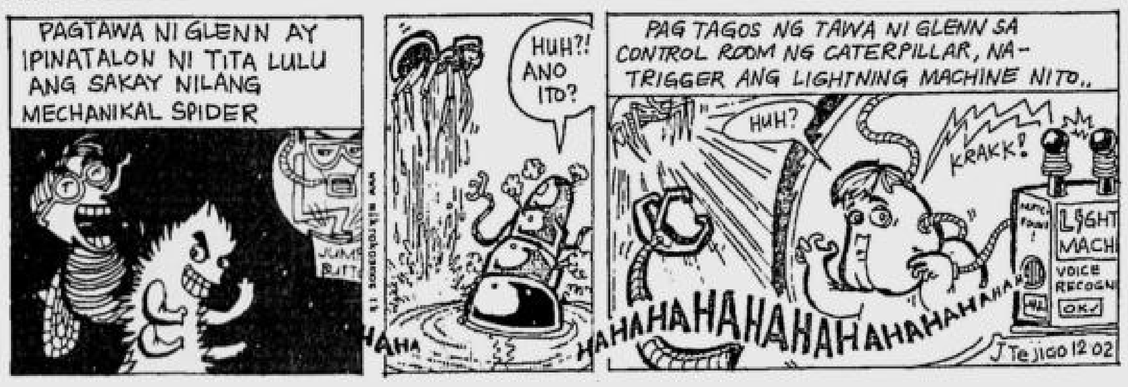
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


RRRRIIIIING
I'LL BE HOME IN TEN MINUTES, DEAR...
O.K.
SHE SAYS SHE CALLS ME SO I WON'T WORRY...
I THINK SHE CALLS ME SO I CAN CLEAN UP...

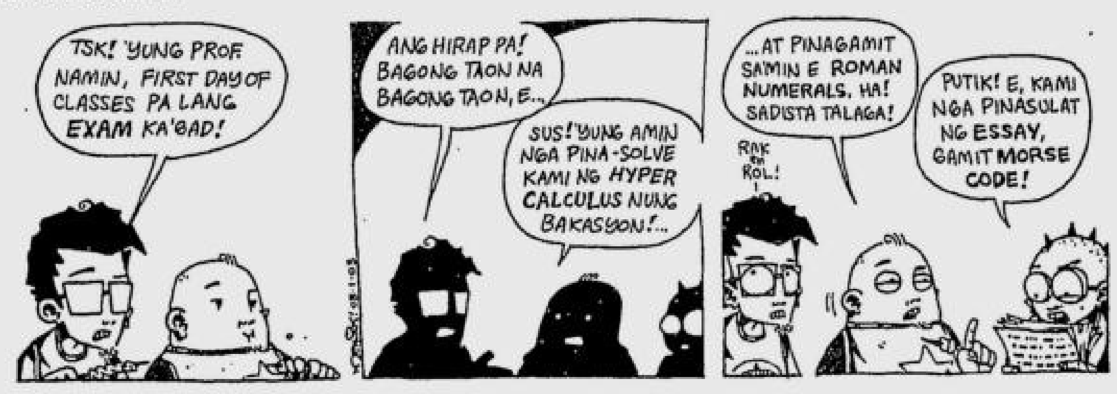
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGTAWA NI GLENN AY IPINATALON NI TITA LULU ANG SAKAY NILANG MECHANIKAL SPIDER
HUH?! ANO ITO?
PAG TAGOS NG TAWA NI GLENN SA CONTROL ROOM NG CATERPILLAR, NA-TRIGGER ANG LIGHTNING MACHINE NITO..
HUH?
KRAKK!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
J Tejido 12 02

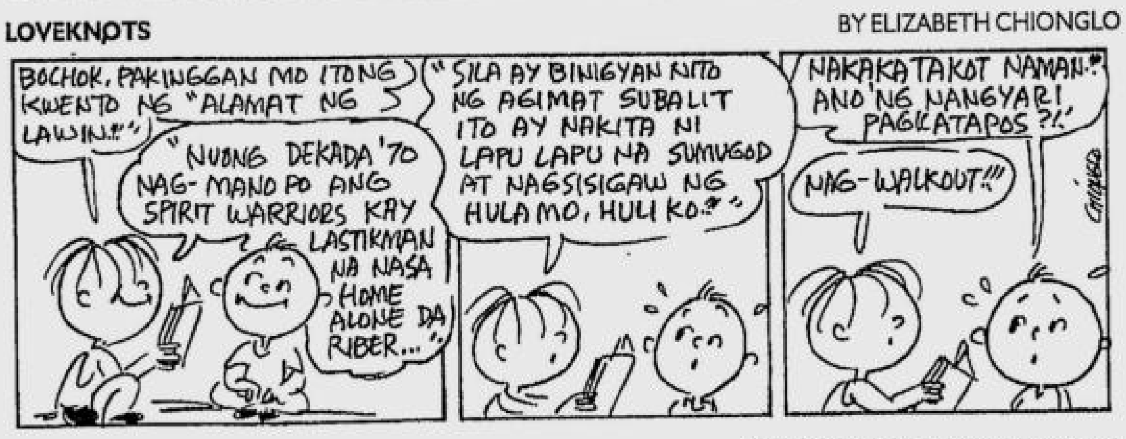
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! 'YUNG PROF NAMIN, FIRST DAY OF CLASSES PA LANG EXAM KA'AGAD!
ANG HIRAP PA! BAGONG TAON NA BAGONG TAON, E...
SUS! 'YUNG AMIN NGA PINA-SOLVE KAMI NG HYPER CALCULUS NUNG BAKASYON!...
...AT PINAGAMIT SA'MIN E ROMAN NUMERALS. HA! SADISTA TALAGA!
RAK EN ROL!
PUTIK! E, KAMI NGA PINASULAT NG ESSAY, GAMIT MORSE CODE!

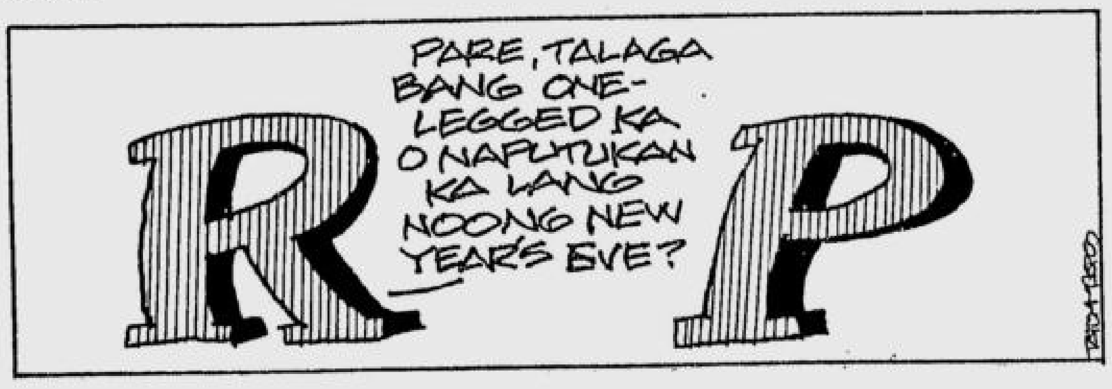
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, PAKINGGAN MO ITONG KWENTO NG "ALAMAT NG LAWIN!"
"NUNG DEKADA '70 NAG-MANO PO ANG SPIRIT WARRIORS KAY LASTIKMAN NA NASA HOME ALONE DA RIBER..."
"SILA AY BINIGYAN NITO NG AGIMAT SUBALIT ITO AY NAKITA NI LAPU LAPU NA SUMUGOD AT NAGSISIGAW NG HULA MO, HULI KO!"
NAKAKATAKOT NAMAN!! ANO'NG NANGYARI PAGKATAPOS?!
NAG-WALKOUT!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PARE, TALAGA BANG ONE-LEGGED KA O NAPUTUKAN KA LANG NOONG NEW YEAR'S EVE?
R
P

MMFF viewers' reactions and observations

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

SINCE the 2002 Metro Manila filmfest opened last Dec. 25, we've been receiving comments and queries from a number of interested or concerned film buffs. Here are some of them:

Young viewers who belong to the post-martial law period say they appreciate the way that "Dekada '70" has recalled those dark years and cruel days in our contemporary history. Since they were born in the '80s, they knew that period only from their parents' stories and the publications they read. It was very different when the film brought the terrible events of those years to vivid life.

But they observe that the film appears to have presumed that viewers already knew enough about the background to those events—a presumption that they object to, since many of today's moviegoers are young people who don't know much about that period.

Thus, they were sometimes in the dark about the events and personalities in the film, and their attention wandered. They also found the movie a bit long, unlike older viewers who could completely understand and relate to its well-integrated tapestry of sequences.

Another viewer's observation: most of the viewers who saw "Dekada '70" were women. He attributed this to the fact that it was a feminist film that touched on issues that some men would not want to confront, or be reminded of.

While the film's feminist sensibility was understood by the viewer, he found it unfortunate that it had kept some male viewers away from the movie, because its insights into the martial law period should benefit all viewers, regardless of gender.

Reactions to "Mano Po": Some members of the Chinese community lauded the movie because it finally gave the Fil-Chinese experience the importance that it has long deserved.

They point out, however, that there's much more to Fil-Chinese relations than the drug, kidnapping, bribery and corruption angles that the movie decided to concentrate on.

They also react strongly to the way that the rebellious granddaughter played by **Ara Mina** ruined **Eddie Garcia**'s 80th birthday party by showing up "undressed" in a gown that was cut so low in the back that the crack of her fanny could be seen. No Chinese family would have allowed that to happen, they strongly insist, and no Chinese woman would do that unless she was insane!

Michael V in 'Lastikman'

ON TV, comedian **Michael V.** impresses viewers with the many funny characters he has created. One of the most recent is a bumbling, bungling TV interviewer who asks all the wrong questions of his guests.

Well, the TV character has become so popular that Michael is playing him again in **Vic Sotto**'s current fantasy starrer, "Lastikman." In the film, he keeps trailing the Pinoy superhero in the hope of landing a scoop that will make him a TV star.

It becomes his obsession to find out Lastikman's real identity, and he stops at nothing to achieve his objective. Of course, his ineptness is the best assurance that he won't get what he wants! "Lastikman" also stars **Donita Rose, Jeffrey Quizon, Oyo Boy Sotto, Anne Curtis, Michelle Bayle** and **Elizabeth Oropesa.**

Feedback

FROM **Candy Cantada**: "I have never before felt so strongly about a Filipino film as to be compelled to write about it. Three days ago, I watched 'Mano Po' in an SRO theater. Yesterday, I saw 'Dekada '70' in a near-empty cinema.

"I'm writing this note in the hope that more people will watch 'Dekada' despite the negative press, and form their own opinion on the film.

"I think to judge 'Dekada' based on MMFF standards and negative publicity is a greater injustice than not hearing Lualhati Bautista's name in the list of nominees."

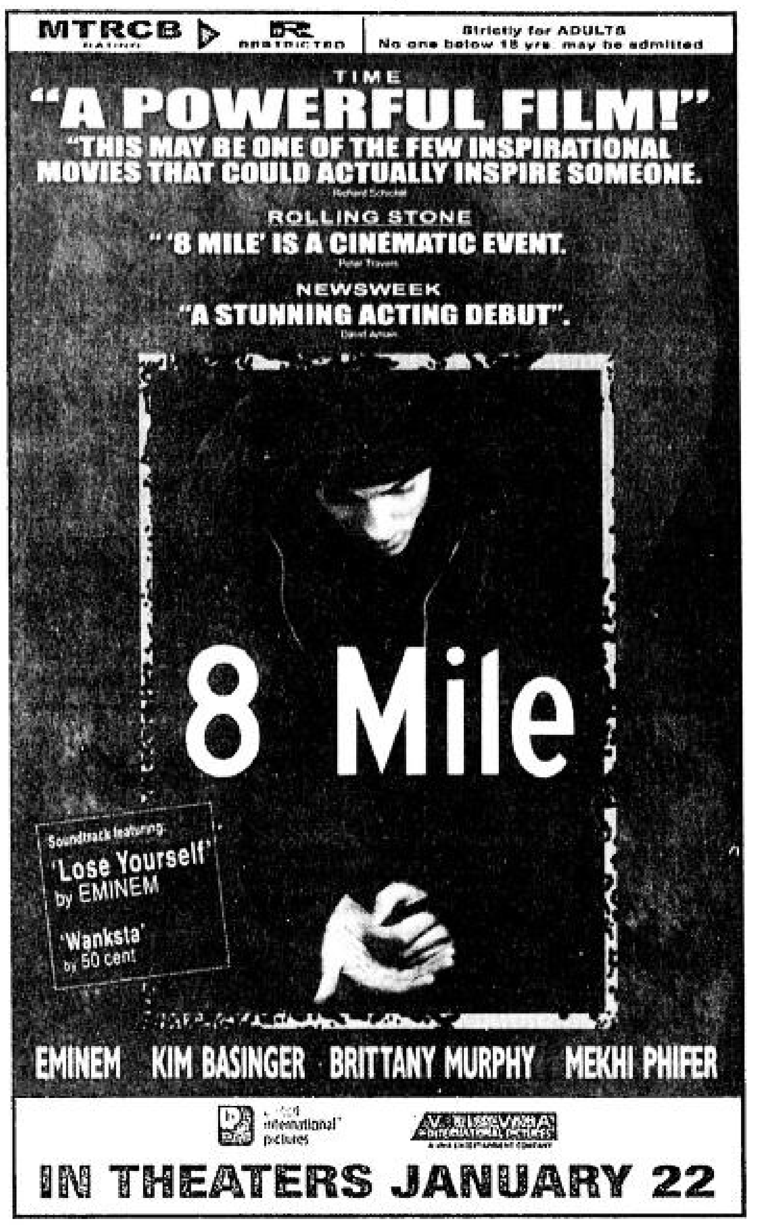
Post-Oscar roles

KIM **Basinger**, **Marisa Tomei** and **Hilary Swank** are Oscar awardees (for "L.A. Confidential," "My Cousin Vinny" and "Boys Don't Cry," respectively). That gives their new films some much-needed thespic cachet:

Basinger stars as **Eminem**'s mother in "8 Mile," directed by **Chris Hanson**. Since making her film debut in the **Robert Redford** starrer, "The Natural," she has starred in more than 20 films. "8 Mile" is being touted as one of 2002's best movies.

For her part, Tomei stars as a New Age therapy-crazed socialite in "The Guru." She jumps from one therapist to another in the vain hope of filling the deep, unhappy void in her life. Tomei will next be seen in the dark comedy "Just a Kiss," and plays opposite **Jack Nicholson** and **Adam Sandler** in "Anger Management."

Finally, Swank stars in "The Core" as a "terranaut" pilot. In the film, meteors wreak havoc on Earth, leading to Swank's mission: to detonate a device that will reactivate our planet's core, and save mankind.



MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
TIME
"A POWERFUL FILM!"
"THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE FEW INSPIRATIONAL MOVIES THAT COULD ACTUALLY INSPIRE SOMEONE.
Richard Schickel
ROLLING STONE
"'8 MILE' IS A CINEMATIC EVENT.
Peter Travers
NEWSWEEK
"A STUNNING ACTING DEBUT".
David Ansen
8 Mile
Soundtrack featuring: 'Lose Yourself' by EMINEM 'Wanksta' by 50 cent
EMINEM KIM BASINGER BRITTANY MURPHY MEKHI PHIFER
united international pictures
IN THEATERS JANUARY 22

Much-awaited on the big screen: Sharon-Richard, Maricel-Cesar starrers

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS
Leah Salterio

THE VALENTINE'S day playdate is usually reserved for heart-wrenching romance dramas with fairy-tale endings. Two years ago, the **Sharon Cuneta-Richard Gomez** starrer for Star Cinema, "Minsan Minahal Kita," was screened for the Valentine week. **Olive Lamasan** worked with the erstwhile show biz sweethearts, whose screen reunion was lapped up by their fans. Proof was the huge box-office gross of the movie.

Sharon and Goma will team up anew in another film, "Walang Kapalit," for Viva Films. This time, **Joel Lamangan** will work at the helm of the much-awaited romance drama.

Unfortunately, the movie will not make it in time for a Valentine's week release. It will most likely be shown middle of the year.

Sharon is set to start filming anytime this month. She simply wrapped up her four-Sunday special on her weekly ABS-CBN show for her birth month. The megastar turned 37 last Monday, Jan. 6.

When it's a Sharon and Richard film, fans can expect a melodrama which can also be a three-hankie weepie.

Meanwhile, **Maricel Soriano** and **Cesar Montano** will bring their well-loved TV tandem to the big screen in their first team up for Star Cinema.

Maricel and Cesar are seen on the weekly sitcom, "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis." They simply reprised their roles as husband and wife in their previous sitcom, "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis."

For their first screen starrer, Maricel and Cesar are most likely to be given a comedy-romace story, which best suits their partnership.

Maricel, who is now enjoying her US vacation, is expected to be back end of January.

For his part, Cesar is awaiting the Hollywood release of his American movie, "The Great Raid," directed by **John Dahl.**

Another romance-drama coming up is "Pinakamamahal," starring reel and real sweethearts **Jericho Rosales** and **Kristine Hermosa**. The film is a follow-up to their blockbuster teamup, "Forevermore."

Natural actor

HAD **Oyo Boy Sotto** pursued an acting career when he was still a boy, he would have achieved enviable credentials in the acting arena by this time.

In the first place, he can never go wrong. With a formidable show biz family background, Oyo Boy carries the acting legacy of his mom, **Dina Bonnevie**, and the talent, height and good looks of his dad, **Vic Sotto.**

In "Lastikman," the Metro Manila Film Festival entry jointly produced by OctoArts Films and M-Zet Productions, Oyo Boy was given considerable exposure on the big screen. He was offered by his dad to star in the movie and Oyo Boy surprisingly didn't pass up the opportunity, considering he is not really inclined toward show biz.

However, since he plays the young Hilario in "Lastikman," with Vic as the adult one, Oyo Boy doesn't appear in any scene with his dad.

A bonus for him is the chance to work with his erstwhile girlfriend, **Anne Curtis**, who plays his love interest in the movie.

Oyo Boy was given a serious role in the fantasy-comedy flick, with hardly any scene for him to get the laughs. What turned out to be funny was when comedian **Joey de Leon** in a cameo as Hilario's dad, appears as a ghost and talks to his son. The mere photo of Joey shown with **Evangeline Pascual**, who plays Hilario's mom, elicited laughs from the audience.

In one scene, where Oyo Boy cries while cradling the body of his dead mom, the guy proves he is a natural actor.

His scenes with his lolo (**Joonee Gamboa**) and even with the guys who bully him in school also appear to be effortless for him.

There's another scene where he embraces his mom and cries, and Oyo Boy was far from being over-acting.

If his parents will allow him to embark on a full-time show biz career or if he himself will finally relent and join show biz, Oyo Boy can accept projects where he can display his innate acting talent.

He can be part of a young loveteam or he can portray young adult but serious roles and make a name for himself in the business, apart from being merely referred to as the son of Vic Sotto and Dina Bonnevie. Although he does not surely mind being identified with his more famous parents, Oyo Boy can undoubtedly be a bigger star than Vic or Dina in the future.

"Lastikman" easily became a box office hit when it opened last Jan. 1. The fantasy-comedy was said to have grossed P10 million on its first day in Metro Manila alone.

I watched the movie with my kids and brother at Alabang Town Center last Sunday and it was an SRO crowd. Children were squatting on the carpeted floor in front of the huge screen, there were people sitting on the aisle and others were standing at the back.

My sister **Lois**, who watched "Lastikman" Friday night at Greenbelt 3, attested she and her friend also had to sit on the stairs throughout the screening.

An added treat to the comedy flick are the bloopers and blunders shown at the end of the film, as the closing credits roll.

The filmfest runs until Jan. 10, so you still have three days to watch the other film entries.

SOTTO. He can accept future projects where he can display his innate acting talent.

Inspired by Forrest Gump

IF YOU'VE watched the film "Forrest Gump," which earned for **Tom Hanks** his second best actor actor, then you are certainly familiar with the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, the restaurant business that Forrest put up in memory of his war best friend, Bubba.

"Forrest Gump" is undoubtedly one of the most celebrated Hollywood films of all time. Aside from Hanks' Oscar, the film also won other Academy awards, including best picture in 1994 and best director for **Robert Zemeckis.**

In the spring of 1996, a group of entrepreneurs joined the "Forrest Gump" bandwagon through a joint venture with Paramount Pictures and conceptualized a casual theme restaurant inspired by the film.

Thus was born Bubba Gump Shrimp Company Restaurant, with a first outlet in Monterey, California. The restaurant later expanded its casual dining business to include other branches in the West Coast (San Francisco, Long Beach, Sta. Monica), East Coast (Breckenridge, Colorado, Chicago, Miami and Daytona in Florida), Hawaii (Maui and Oahu) and Asia (Osaka and Tokyo, Japan).

Bubba Gump Shrimp Company invades Manila and the first branch will open Jan. 15 at the 2nd Level of Greenbelt 3 in Ayala Center, Makati.

The restaurant is owned by **Carol Nievera**, who also secured the rights for the local franchises of Hard Rock Café and Country Waffles.

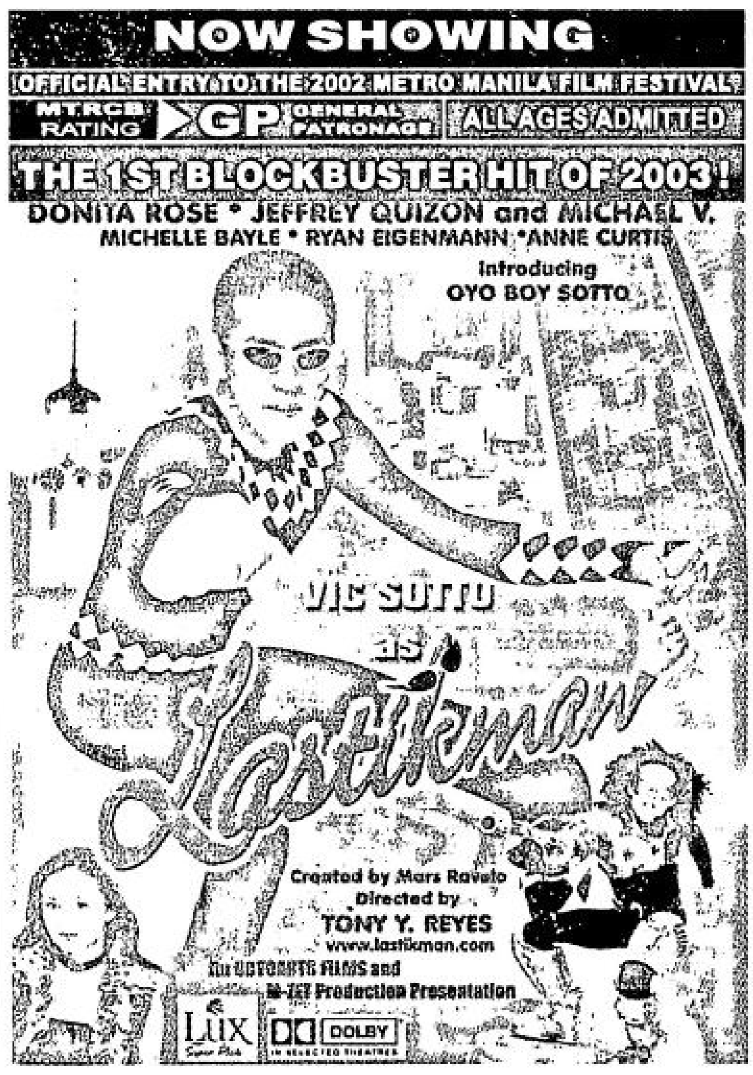
The ambiance of Bubba Gump Shrimp Company will remind everyone about "Forrest Gump"—from the lights, music and the artifacts like costumes, props and even Dr. Pepper, which is Forrest's favorite drink.

The menu will offer varied choices with shrimps, with an array of specialty drinks. The giant mascot, Shrimp Louie, will welcome guests to the dining place.

And, just like any theme restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Company has a retail shop, Market, with souvenir items like shirts, caps, keychains, glasswares.

Even the trademark bench where Forrest Gump sat while waiting for his bus, has been recreated for posterity.

As part of its unique concept of service, Bubba Gump Shrimp Company also holds an exciting trivia challenge for guests on their tables.



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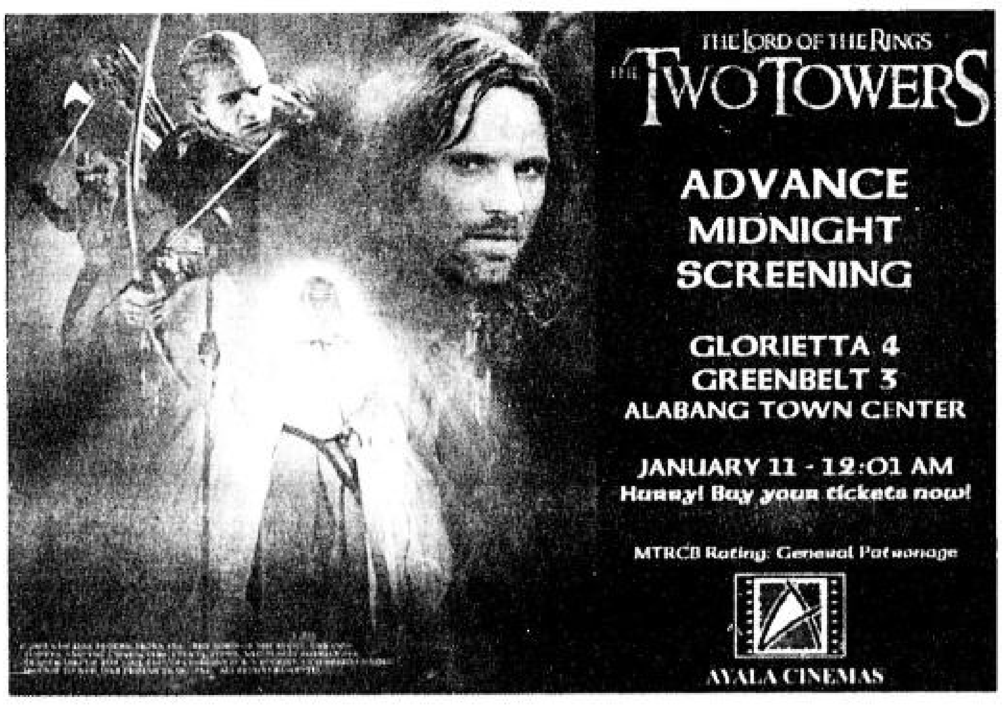
Lux Super Rich
DOLBY IN SELECTED THEATRES



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2 LASTIKMAN	2 LASTIKMAN	2 MANO PO	MANO PO 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20	2 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
3 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2	3 DEKADA '70 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	Onstage JOSE MARI CHAN - HEART OF A SONG WRITER Jan. 17 - 18 / 9PM	LASTIKMAN 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	3 DEKADA '70
4 MANO PO	4 ANG ALAMAT NG LAWIN		ANG AGIMAT 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 AGIMAT
	5 ANG AGIMAT		SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	5 LASTIKMAN
	6 MANO PO			
	7 HOME ALONE DA RIBER			

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5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
6	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	LASTIKMAN
8	LASTIKMAN
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2	HOME ALONG D RIVER
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PREMIERE CINEMA THX
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RESERVE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DEKADA '70
2	AGIMAT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
2	AGIMAT
3	MANO PO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	LASTIKMAN
2	DEKADA '70
3	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
4	MANI PO

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	MANO PO
4	HULA MO HULI KO
5	AGIMAT
6	DEKADA '70
7 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
8 (SDDS)	HOME ALONG
9	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	AGIMAT
2	LASTIKMAN
3	HOME ALONG D RIBER
4 (SDDS)	DEKADA '70
5	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
6 (DOLBY)	LASTIKMAN
7 (DTS)	MANO PO
8	HULI MO HULI KO
9	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	MANO PO
2 (SDDS)	AGIMAT
3	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
4 (DOLBY)	LASTIKMAN
5	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	LASTIKMAN
2	DEKADA '70
3 (DTS)	HOME ALONG D RIVER
4	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
5 (SDDS)	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
Lords	AGIMAT
Jennet	MANO PO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	LASTIKMAN
2	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
3	HOME ALONG D RIVER
4	MANO PO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	AGIMAT
2	MANO PO
3	LASTIKMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
5	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	AGIMAT
2	HOME ALONG D' RIBER

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	LASTIKMAN
2	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
2	AGIMAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANO PO
4 (SDDS)	LASTIKMAN
5 (DTS)	DEKADA '70
6	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
7	HOME ALONE DA RIBER

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	LASTIKMAN
2	AGIMAT

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 , 534.2198

1	LASTIKMAN
2	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
3 (DTS)	MANO PO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MANO PO
2 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
3 (DOLBY)	DEKADA '70
4	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MANO PO
2 (DOLBY)	AGIMAT
3 (DTS)	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORCUT
4	LASTIKMAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	MANO PO
2	LASTIKMAN
3	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
2	LASTIKMAN
3 (DOLBY)	AGIMAT
4	MANO PO

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
2 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
3	MANO PO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
2	AGIMAT
3 (DTS)	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
4	LASTIKMAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HOME ALONG D RIBER
2	AGIMAT
3 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
5	HULI MO HULI KO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
2	LASTIKMAN
3	HOME ALONG D RIBER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	HOME ALONG D RIBER
2	LASTIKMAN
3	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
2	DEKADA '70
3 (DTS)	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
4	AGIMAT

Canuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	AGIMAT
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT
2	LASTIKMAN
3	MANO PO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MANO PO
2	AGIMAT
3	DEKADA '70
4	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AGIMAT
2	MANO PO
3 (DTS ES)	DEKADA '70
4	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORTCUT

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571

1	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
2	MANO PO
3 (DOLBY)	AGIMAT
4 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel, 85035-71 to 72

THE STREETBOYS
CHITO ROÑO'S
SPIRIT WARRIORS
The ShortCut

SM CINEMA
SM-Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	HULA MO, HULI KO
2	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
3	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
4	MANO PO
5	AGIMAT
6	LASTIKMAN
7	DEKADA ' 70
8	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	LASTIKMAN
2	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
3	MANO PO
4	DEKADA ' 70
5	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
6	HULA MO, HULI KO
7	AGIMAT
8	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
9	LASTIKMAN
10	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	HULA MO, HULI KO
2	DEKADA '70
3	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
4	AGIMAT
5	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
6	LASTIKMAN
7	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
8	LASTIKMAN
9	MANO PO
10	LAPU LAPU
11	LASTIKMAN
12	ALAMAT NG LAWIN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
2	MANO PO
3	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
4	LASTIKMAN
5	DEKADA '70
6	AGIMAT
7	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
8	LAPU LAPU
9	LASTIKMAN
10	HULA MO, HULI KO
11	MANO PO
12	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MANO PO
2	AGIMAT
3	LASTIKMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
5	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
6	LAPU LAPU
7	HULA MO, HULI KO
8	MANO PO
9	LASTIKMAN
10	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
11	DEKADA '70
12	HOME ALONE DA RIBER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HULA MO, HULI KO
2	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
3	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
4	DEKADA ' 70
5	MANO PO
6	LASTIKMAN
7	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
8	AGIMAT

SM SOUTHMALL
8096888

1	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
2	DEKADA '70
3	AGIMAT
4	LASTIKMAN
5	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
6	HULA MO, HULI KO
7	MANO PO
8	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
9	LASTIKMAN
10	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	MANO PO
2	AGIMAT
3	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
4	DEKADA '70
5	LASTIKMAN
6	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
7	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
8	MANO PO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	DEKADA '70
2	CLOSED
3	HULA MO, HULI KO
4	MANO PO
5	LASTIKMAN
6	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
7	CLOSED
8	REPLI-KATE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	LASTIKMAN
2	AGIMAT
3	MANO PO
4	DEKADA '70
5	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
6	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	AGIMAT
2	LASTIKMAN
3	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
4	MANO PO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
2	LASTIKMAN
3	MANO PO
4	AGIMAT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
2	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
3	MANO PO
4	DEKADA ' 70
5	LASTIKMAN
6	AGIMAT

SM BICUTAN

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
2	MANO PO
3	LASTIKMAN
4	AGIMAT

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	LONG TIME DEAD
2	LASTIKMAN
3	MANO PO
4	SHAOLIN SOCCER

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:30/3:40/5:50/8:00/ 9:40 LFS/10:10 LMF/11:50 END
2	MANO PO 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/2:00/4:40/7:20/ 9:35 LFS/10:00 LMF/12:15 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate . P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

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MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
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call-a-movie: 536- 7812
NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	MANO PO
2	LASTIKMAN
3	MANO PO
4	AGIMAT
5	SPIRIT WARRIORS
6	DEKADA ' 70
7	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
8	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
9	DEKADA ' 70
10	HULA MO, HULI KO

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema · P65 tiered cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
2	LASTIKMAN
3	DEKADA ' 70
4	AGIMAT
5	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
6	SPIRIT WARRIORS
7	MANO PO

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	AGIMAT
2	HULA MO, HULI KO
3	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
4	DEKADA ' 70
5	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
6	MANO PO
7	LASTIKMAN
8	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	AGIMAT
2	DEKADA ' 70
3	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
4	MANO PO
5	LASTIKMAN
6	LASTIKMAN
7	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
8	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	MANO PO
2	LASTIKMAN
3	AGIMAT
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
2	MANO PO
3	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	LASTIKMAN
5	AGIMAT
6	DEKADA '70

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	AGIMAT
2	MANO PO
3	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	LASTIKMAN
5	DEKADA ' 70
6	HOME ALONG DA RIBER

Sta. Rosa Laguna

1	LASTIKMAN
2	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
3	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	AGIMAT
5	MANO PO

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

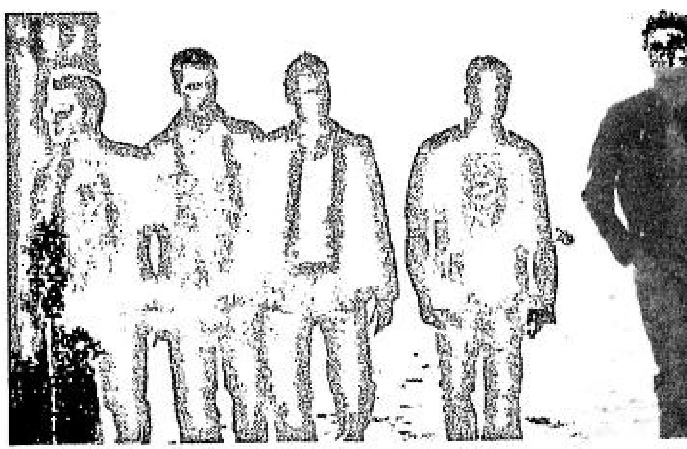
1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
2	VAMPS
3	MANO PO
4	DEKADA ' 70
5	LASTIKMAN
6	HOME ALONG DA RIBER

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	HULA MO, HULI KO
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	LASTIKMAN
4	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
5	DEKADA ' 70
6	MANO PO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Westlife comes out with greatest hits album



WESTLIFE. Undisputed kings of pop, with 18 million albums sold worldwide in three years.

TAGGED as the undisputed kings of pop, with three years of amazing success and 18 million albums sold worldwide, Westlife is back with a new album, "Unbreakable: The Greatest Hits," the group's first retrospective set with all their hits plus six brand new songs.

The first single culled from the album is the epic new ballad and title track, "Unbreakable."

Contained in the album are Westlife's 10 UK Number 1 singles, which includes among others their very first hit "Swear It Again" and all the consecutive chart-toppers from their self-titled debut album such as "If I Let You Go," "Fool Again" and "Flying Without Wings."

Also contributing to the set are their string of hits from their sophomore album "Coast To Coast" such as "My Love" and "Against All Odds" (with Mariah Carey) and their version of Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl," which became their biggest hit to date.

Westlife is composed of Bryan McFadden, Mark Feehily, Shane Filan, Kian Egan and Nicky Byrne.

"Unbreakable: The Greatest Hits" is distributed locally by BMG Records Pilipinas.

Confronting . . .

From page A28

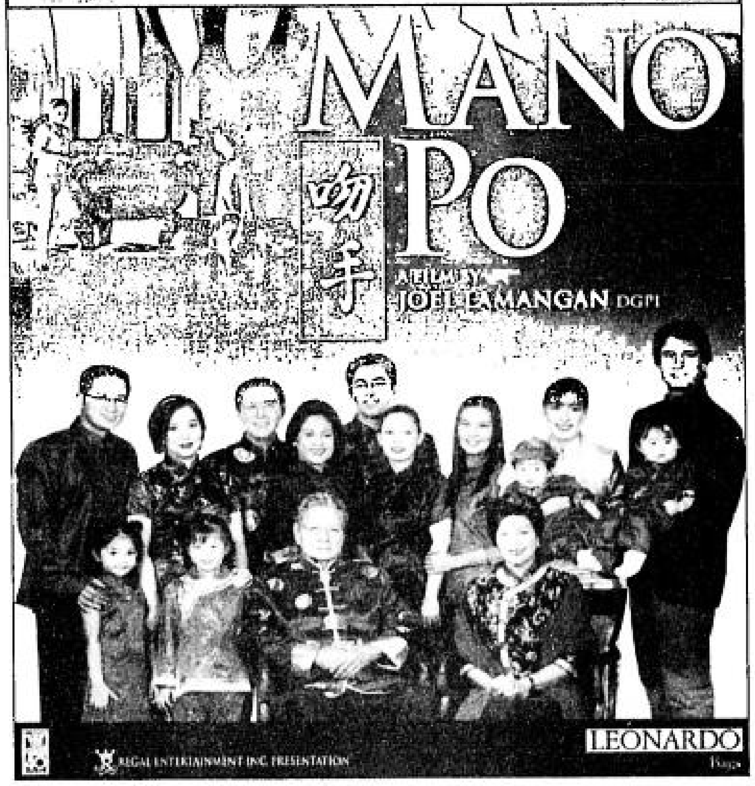
By the same token, we, like Amanda, are also called to respond to the challenge of our contemporary reality. We must seek out also our potential and use the very instrument of oppression against our oppressors to articulate dissent and resistance.

We shall not cease from taking active participation in politics because our condition must be one of continued striving and restless dissatisfaction; a condition more of discernment than complacency to possess the only kind of self-worth of which we can best be at home ultimately.

OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
3RD BEST PICTURE • BEST MAKE-UP • BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

THE STREETBOYS
Chito Roño
SPIRIT WARRIORS
The ShortCut
follow me.
A VIVA AND ROADRUNNER PRESENTATION

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
MULTI AWARDED ENTRY OF MMFF 2002
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR
BEST ACTRESS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
BEST SCREENPLAY
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
BEST EDITING



MANO PO
A FILM BY JOEL LAMANGAN DGPI
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION
LEONARDO

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HOME ALONE THE RIVER **GP** 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	**SPIRIT WARRIORS** **GP** 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	**DEKADA 70** **P13** 11:30,2:05,4:50, 7:35,10:20
MANO PO **GP** 1:10,3:40, 6:20,9:00	**LASTIKMAN** **GP** 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	**MANO PO** **GP** 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
DEKADA '70
11:00, 1:45, 4:25,
7:05, 9:50
PG-13

CINEMA 2
MANO PO
11:05, 1:50, 4:35,
7:20, 10:00
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

JAN 10, 2003	BANDS	8:00 PM
JAN 18, 2003	PARLIAMENT SYNDICATE	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

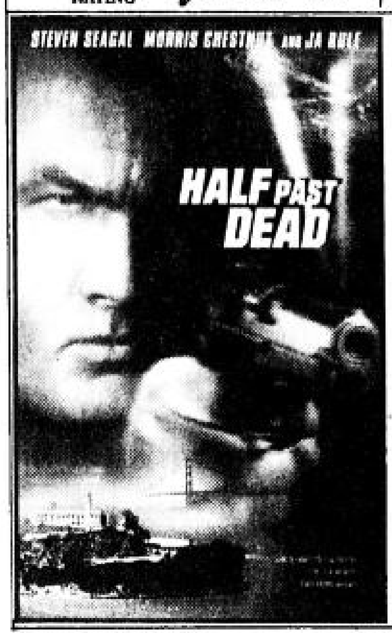
Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
Ali 2	AGIMAT NI LOLO
Ali 3	MANO PO
Ali 4	LASTIKMAN
Ali 5	DEKADA '70
Ali 6	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
Ali 7	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	LASTIKMAN
Farmers 2	AGIMAT NI LOLO
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JAN 11	ANAK LAUNCH
JAN 13 & 15	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JAN 21, 22, & 24	WORLD SLASHER CUP 2003
ELEPHANT WORLD	
JAN. 8	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM
JAN. 9	3 PM / 5 PM
JAN 10	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TWO TIMER/ SEX FILES
ODEON	LASTIKMAN
ODEON-2	PROSTV HIYAS NG PARAISO
ROBEN	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	KILABOT AT KEMBOT/ RED DIARY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
QUEZON-1	LASTIKMAN
REMAR	LASTIKMAN
REMAR-2	AGIMAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HOME ALONE DA RIBER
B	HULA MO, HULI KO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-2	REPLI-KATE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 10)
CINEMA-1	HULA MO, HULI KO
CINEMA-2	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
CINEMA-3	ALAMAT NG LAWIN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	AGIMAT NI LOLO
CINEMA-6	MANO PO
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIOR 2
CINEMA-8	LAPU LAPU
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANO PO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AGIMAT NI LOLO
CINEMA-12	SPIRIT WARRIOR 2
CINEMA-14	HOME ALONG DA RIBER
CINEMA-15	DEKADA 70
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LNES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



STEVEN SEAGAL MORRIS CHESTNUT AND JA RULE
HALF PAST DEAD

Special New Year Presentation!

Steven Seagal back in Action

International action superstar Steven Seagal is back with a vengeance. This time he plays undercover FBI agent Sascha Petrosevitch in the brand-new non-stop, slam-bang action blockbuster from Columbia Pictures, "Half Past Dead."

The California Penal Authority has reopened Alcatraz, the most notorious prison in history. A disgruntled prison bureaucrat-turned-criminal mastermind heads a renegade commando team to infiltrate the high-tech fortress in order to force a death-row inmate to reveal the whereabouts of $200 million worth of gold.

Seagal teams with rap artist Ja Rule to rally the Alcatraz inmates to stop the invaders – before they murder the Supreme Court Justice, who is in The Rock to witness an execution.

The fast-paced, action-packed thriller also stars sexy Filipino Hollywood actress Nia Peeples as a deadly gun-firing, knife-throwing martial artist.

OPENS JANUARY 11

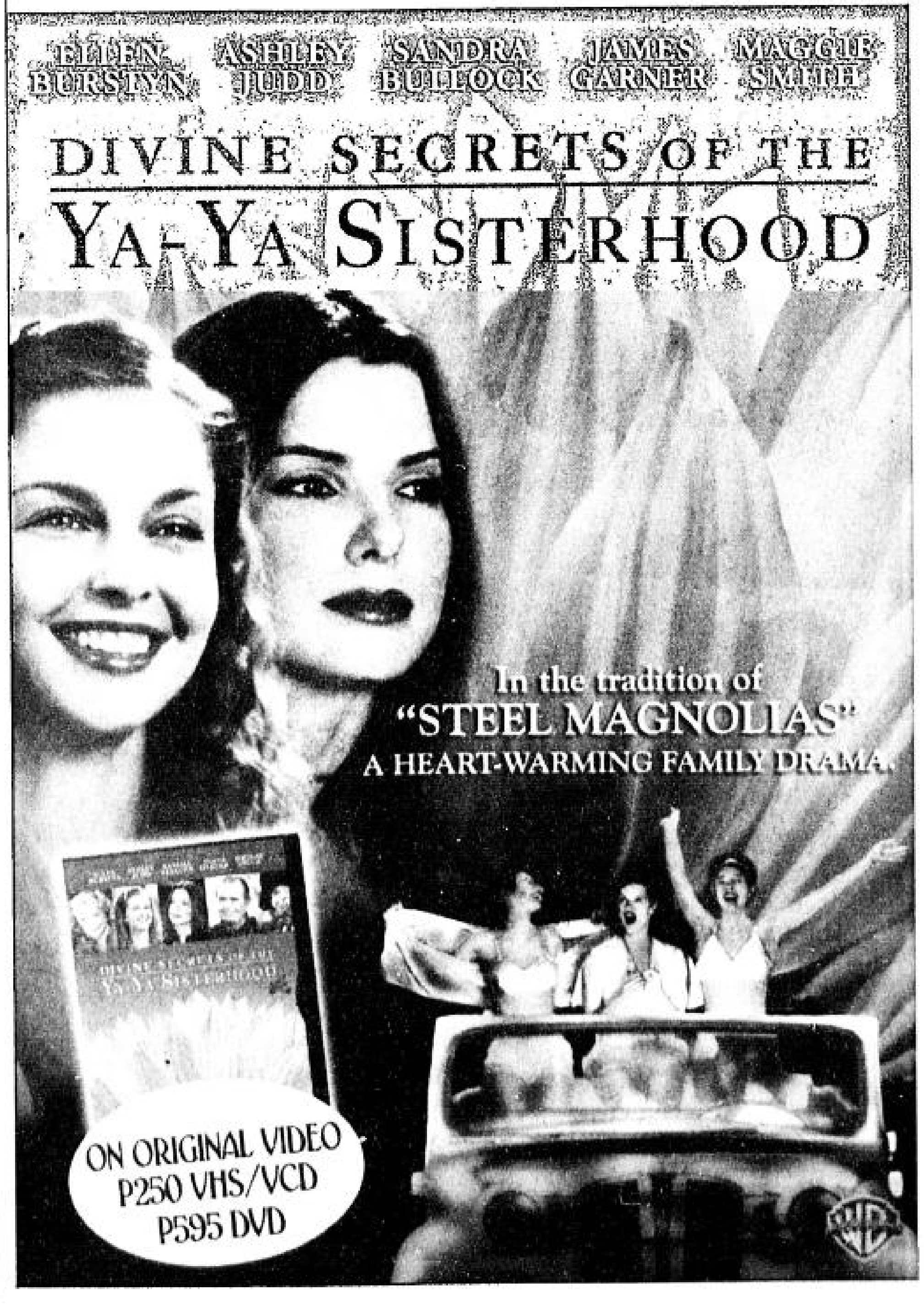
A NEW POWER IS RISING.

Onstage
GREENBELT
THE PERFECT 850 SEAT VENUE FOR ALL TYPES OF LIVE PRESENTATION & ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE RAISING ITS CURTAINS FROM JAN. 11 - 14 TO SCREEN THE MUCH AWAITED MOVIE OF THE YEAR.
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS
SCREENING SCHEDULES:
10:45, 2:15, 5:45, 9:15
FREE SEATING
Ticket Price: P100
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
AYALA CINEMAS

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS

3
DAYS TO GO
HURRY! BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE NOW at the Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 & Alabang Town Center Ticketbooth!
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
Sam
An ordinary Hobbit who becomes the most extraordinary and loyal of Frodo's friends.
AYALA CINEMAS

NOW ON VIDEO!



E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

AMANDA'S JULES. Piolo Pascual as Vilma Santos' son in "Dekada '70."

'DEKADA '70'

Confronting contemporary reality from a mother's point of view

REVIEW

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

HOW does one outlive the monstrosity of the Martial Law years and how do we pose the relevance of such question now when we tend to be indifferent and apathetic to events going on, both here and around the world?

The film "Dekada '70" raises such issues and concerns. Like the monster it tries to exorcise, the film spawns more questions for anyone who constitutes oneself in relation to others and to a contemporary reality.

Upon watching "Dekada '70," one gets the impression things haven't changed that much since then and that we are still suffering post-traumatic syndrome of the seventies malaise. We wonder then, what went wrong after two EDSA revolutions?

There's no effective way of depicting such reckoning than by way of story and thus, the master storyteller herself, Lualhati Bautista, frames "Dekada '70" conveniently from a mother's point of view, Amanda Bartolome's, whose coming into terms with the problems of child rearing, domesticity and sexual relations become the very venues for articulating change and advocacy in our political and collective life.

Larger context

Amanda herself becomes the point of departure for our reading. Her questions and doubts about her femininity, specifically her role as a mother to Jules, Gani, Em, Jason and Bingo, and as wife to Julian, are subsumed in the larger context of our socio-political discourse today.

We are not just simply sympathizing with her, but instead we see her struggles as constitutive of whatever far future history has in store for all of us—men, women, gays or lesbians.

In other words, Amanda's liberation is the humanity's liberation and no genuine emancipation can be realized nor revolutions are complete if a person like her still remains in the dark. Her nurturing hands shall also be the symbolic raised fists against any imminent danger.

Where do we trace Amanda's oppression and concomitant silencing?

First, she cannot relate to her husband's circle of friends. In one scene, she attempts to join a discussion about poetry but only to be repudiated in return.

Second, she notices how her relationship to Julian is quite uneven. One time, Julian asks her to reprimand their kids' lewd singing. She hesitates and tells him there's nothing wrong with the song. However, when she has heard her husband humming the same song to her, she feels wronged and insulted.

This is one of those incidents when one sees Amanda's relationship with Julian seems disproportionate with regard to what one says to one another for instance and in such situations, Amanda has no choice but to remain silent and keep her feelings for herself. She will have to adjust to Julian.

Thus, Amanda learns to shut up even during dinnertime when her husband talks. In one scene, Julian talks about how they were seduced by the girls and Amanda's face bears all the marks of insults and humiliation.

Alienation

Amanda's alienation further manifests in her relationship with Jules, her eldest son who becomes an NPA agent. The fact that Jules becomes an NPA is already difficult for her to bear. She cannot understand why Jules will have to go away from her.

One time, Jules wrote his brother Gani a letter in which he quotes a poem from Khalil Gibran, saying the sons of light do not belong to their mothers.

Amanda, upon hearing what Jules wrote, gets hurt. She tries to communicate her feelings to no avail. Her family fails to answer her adequately. Her yearnings will only be accommodated at the turn of the events in the country, when her son Jules will be one of those political prisoners who will be tortured and Jason will be brutally murdered for no apparent reason by unknown assailants.

Amanda cries for justice and when she confronts her husband that they should do something, she learns from him that they are helpless against a fascist oppressive state.

Summary executions have been rampant in the country at that time and this only confirms Amanda's worst nightmares.

We learn Amanda's silence is indeed a symptom of the state's machinery control and the Bartolome family functions as an ideological apparatus in which other institutions like the Church and the school remain subservient to the state in order to perpetuate fascists' interests and agenda.

For Amanda, her oppression takes the form of the myth of motherhood and limited domestic functions, and thus, she cannot get an answer why she has to go to bed with her husband, in the same way that she cannot go to courts to demand justice for her sons.

How does Amanda outlive the monstrosity of that decade?

We see in the film how the Bartolome family is not only the stake but also the site of struggle and often of bitter forms of Amanda's struggle. She finds means and occasions of expressing dissatisfaction within the family and outside as she allies with the rest of the exploited.

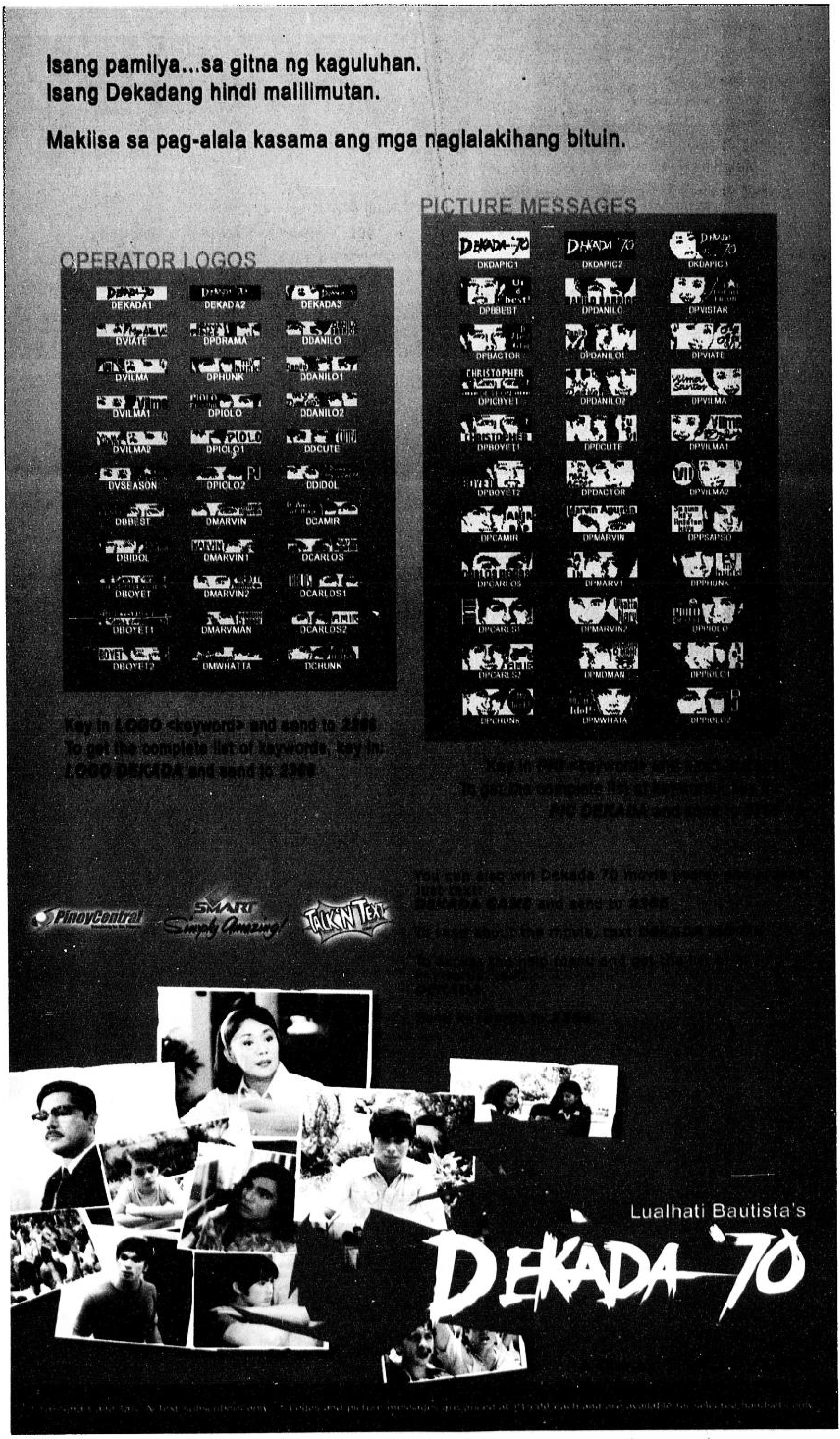
In one poignant scene, she consoles her husband that they should cry together out of desperation. She believes there is strength in togetherness. Their vulnerability is the source of Amanda's power.

Utilizing such contradiction, Amanda learns the painful way of discovering her agency, potential and power to direct the family's state of affairs and contribute to the political stabilization of the country.

When her youngest son, Bingo, asks her if ever the pigeons will come back to them, Amanda says they will. She knows both the pigeons and her sons will come back home to her.

Her struggles are not yet over and thus the film ends with a beginning, her longing for home.

CONFRONTING/ A27


Isang pamilya...sa gitna ng kaguluhan.
Isang Dekadang hindi malilimutan.
Makiisa sa pag-alala kasama ang mga naglalakihang bituin.
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DEKADA2
DEKADA3
DVIATE
DPDRAMA
DDANILO
DVILMA
DPHUNK
DDANILO1
DVILMA1
DPIOLO
DDANILO2
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DBOYET2
DMWHATTA
DCHUNK
DKDAPIC1
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DPBBEST
DPDANILO
DPVISTAR
DPBACTOR
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DPVIATE
DPICBYET
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DPPHUNK
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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

3 banks to handle $750-M RP bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT will issue at least $750 million worth of 10-year global bonds this week and has tapped foreign investment banks Credit Suisse First Boston, JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter to handle the transaction.

Government sources who confirmed the bond float said the new borrowing would be priced today.

A source said the government would try to maximize the borrowing and raise $1 billion from the transaction, the proceeds of which would be used to help finance an estimated budget deficit of P202 billion this year.

A year ago, the government also sold $750 million worth of 15-year bonds in the global market.

"The government has to stock up in anticipation of a US-Iraq conflict that could make future debt transactions more expensive," a finance official said.

The government said it needed to borrow $2.4 billion from the foreign market and P103.27 billion locally this year to complete a net financing requirement of P198 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, declined to comment on the impending debt issue, citing a confidentiality agreement with other parties.

But another source said the underwriters met with key government officials yesterday to finalize the details of the deal.

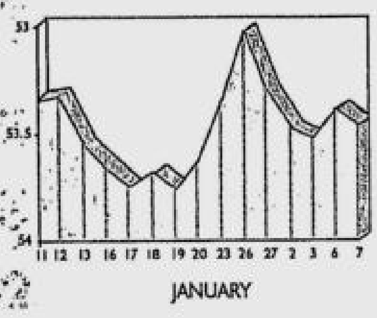
The last time the government went to the global bond market was in November when it mandated HSBC, Salomon Smith Barney, and UBS Warburg to raise $500 million worth of 10-year bonds.

The bonds sold in Nov. 25 carried a spread of 493 basis points over the 10-year US treasuries of about 4 percent or a coupon rate of 9.125 percent.

Some market players said reports that the Philippines had been understating its imports and overstating its current account could make the new borrowing more expensive.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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P 53.46 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 7, 2003

Y 119.56 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 7, 2003

GOLD: **$350.00-350.50**

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 7, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

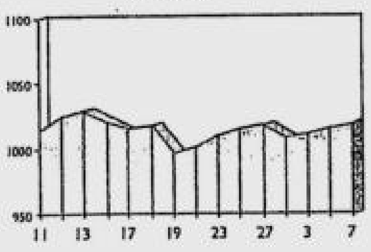
STOCKS tiptoed higher yesterday with investors taking heart in the country's improving fiscal deficit picture, but buying was still dampened by fears of a possible war in Iraq, traders said.

Foreigners were still largely absent from the market, keeping turnover low. Foreign fund managers coming back from the long holiday were still digesting recent positive developments in the country, such as the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo not to run for president in 2004, portfolio managers said.

The Philippine stock index rose 4.52 points or 0.45 percent at 1,019.59 points after trading in a narrow range of about six points. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JANUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Neda bucks tariff protection for Nat'l Steel

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is not too keen to extend tariff protection to prospective investors in National Steel Corp. (NSC) because of its impact on domestic manufacturing industries.

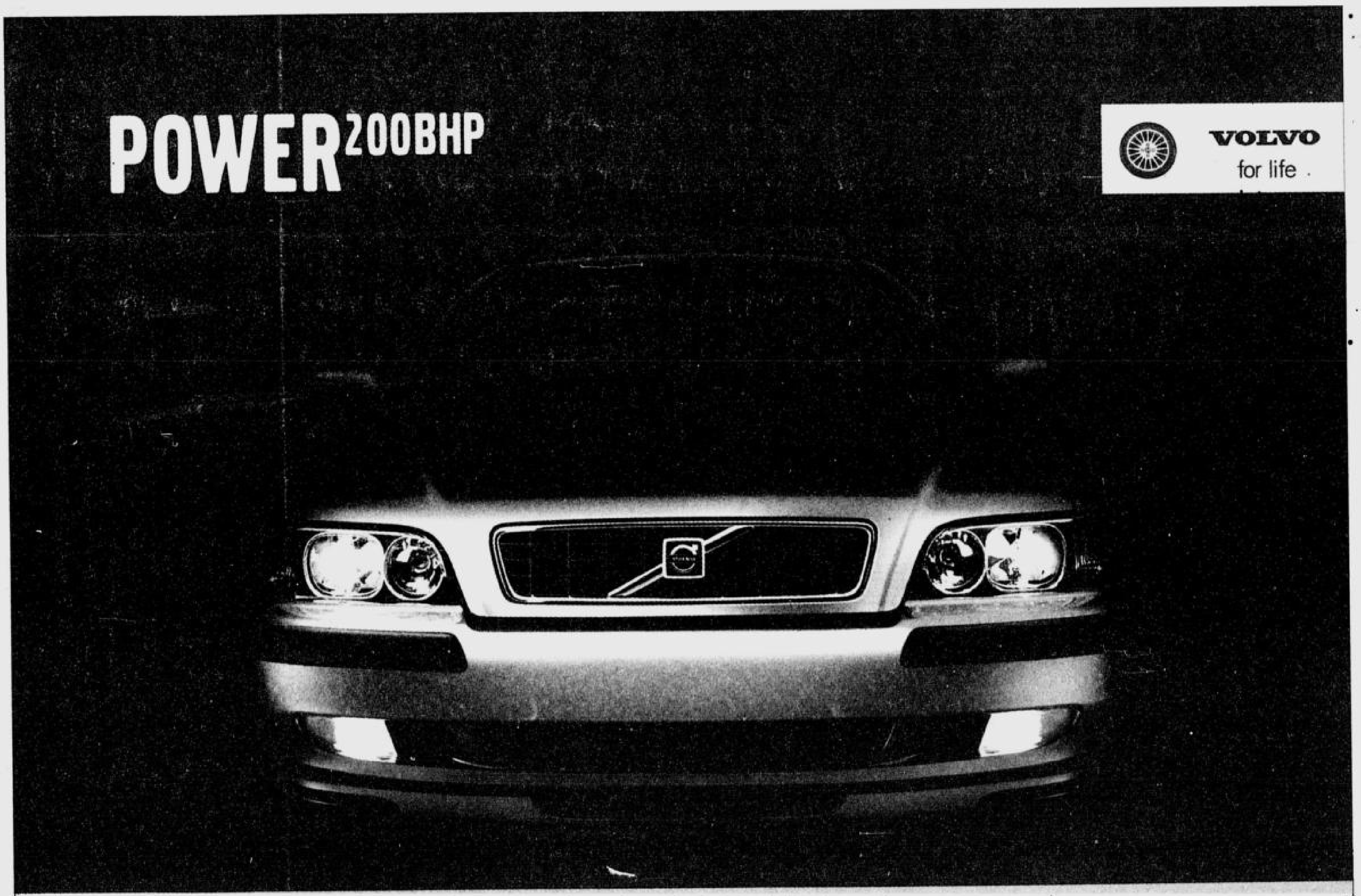
Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said that instead of batting for tariff cover, the new investors of NSC must aim to run the Iligan factory more efficiently to compete with foreign steel makers. This showed that the Neda has kept its free trade leanings despite a change at the top.

The Neda's stand against tariff protection contrasted sharply with the Department of Trade and Industry's commitment to grant tariff protection to prospective investors in NSC as part of the shuttered steel giant's recovery program.

NSC's Malaysian shareholders and creditor-banks have already settled their long-standing dispute on how to solve NSC's P18-billion debt problem. The Malaysians have relented by agreeing to dilute their 82-percent equity into a 20-percent share in the post-rehabilitated NSC. The creditors have also agreed to get the Malaysians' consent on all major board transactions.

The next hurdle for the company is to attract a new investor group that would pump in at least P2 billion into NSC. Prospective investors are expected to demand for high tariffs to ward off cheap steel imports that led to NSC's closure in 1999.

The Alliance of Concerned Downstream Industries and End Product Manufacturers earlier vowed to vigorously oppose any government plan to provide tariff protection on steel products to stoke investor interest in the bankrupt NSC. Duties on NSC's products—cold rolled coils (CRC), billets, and tinplates—have been slashed after the steel company pulled the plug on its operations. CRC and HRC are currently slapped 7-percent duty, billets are levied 3 percent, and tinplates come in duty-free.



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SEC seeks inclusion of financial futures trading in Securities Code

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has proposed an amendment to the Securities Regulation Code that would pave the way for the establishment of a financial futures exchange.

The SEC has postponed the processing of applications for the futures exchange until it has secured better legal ground to oversee such operations.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the moves were made in view of a Court of Appeals' (11th division) ruling on the case involving Performance Foreign Exchange Corp. which provided that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has jurisdiction over foreign currency futures exchange. The SEC, however, had filed a motion for reconsideration.

Futures trading typically refers to the trading of commodities or contracts involving products including copra, sugar and corn. In many countries, financial instruments such as currency contracts have become more sophisticated and are now traded through futures trading.

The SEC has made the promulgation of the revised rules on futures trading its priority this year, in preparation for the possible reopening of a futures exchange in the local market.

In 1999, the Philippine Stock Exchange and a group led by broker Rodolfo Cruz and banker Jaime Panganiban applied for a license to operate a financial futures exchange. However, the SEC had decided to postpone action on the applications indefinitely in view of the agency's ongoing reorganization then.

The SEC wants to ensure that a good regulatory framework was in place to guide the operations of a futures exchange after it had to shut down the Manila International Futures Exchange several years ago amid investor complaints.

The SEC proposed to define a "futures contract" as a contract governing the making or taking of delivery, at a prescribed time in the future, of a specific quantity and quality of commodity or the cash value thereof, which is customarily offset prior to the delivery date.

The proposal defines commodity as any goods, such as but not limited to agricultural or mineral products or financial instruments, that may be the subject of a futures contract.

PSE pushing for changes in IPO requirement

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is pushing for reforms in the book building requirement imposed on companies that are going public in order to speed up the initial public offering process.

In an interview with reporters, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse was discussing with the Securities and Exchange Commission a proposal to do away with a "sequential" book building requirement.

Under this "sequential" system, the issuer will first go through an international book building before conducting the same activity with local investors.

"Is there a reason why the international market have to be dealt with separately from the domestic market when we are talking about the same issue and the same price?" Leung said.

"At present, you have to go through this two-phased approach. Not all issues have to go this way as some issues only have to go domestic and that's fine. For others that will go international and then domestic, then it has to follow the sequence," Leung said.

The PSE president said the shift to a simultaneous book building process would allow the issuer to save time, noting that savings in terms of resources would only be marginal.

"The listing committee has come up with a proposal to do both simultaneously. In my mind, that's logical. After all, everything will be priced the same," Leung said.

The proposal seeks to shorten the process to less than a week. At present, the book building process takes more than one week.

In more advanced markets like the United States, book building takes an average of only 5.5 calendar days before the IPO date.

Under the book building system of IPO pricing, the issuing firm and the underwriter set a price range to be presented to institutional investors who then transmit non-binding indications of interest to the underwriter. After the book building process, the price is set based on indications of interest and the underwriter will select the investors for shares allocation.

Last Monday, the PSE had its first public listing for this year with the debut of finance company Makati Finance Corp., the 237th in its overall roster and the second to join the small and medium enterprise board.

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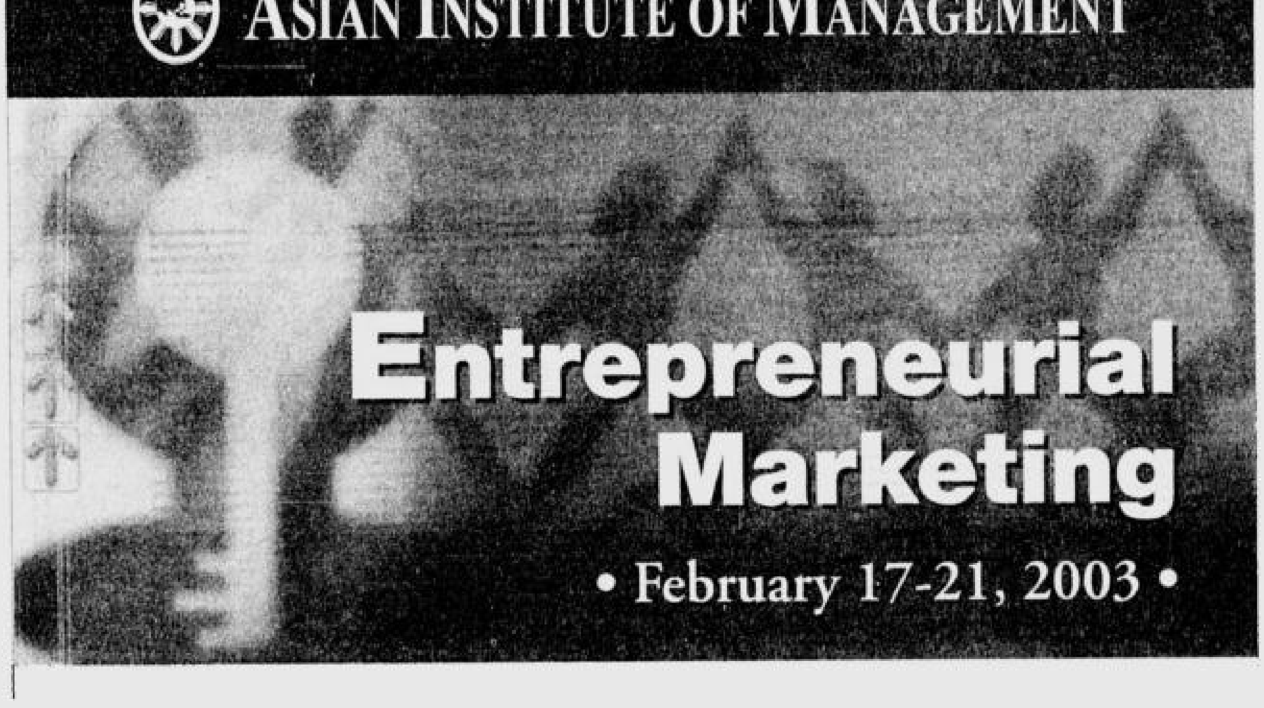

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- Knowing Your Marketplace
- Value Delivery: Targeting and Positioning

DAY 4
- Product Plus: Services Driving Value in the New Millennium
- Managing the Stage, the Actor and the Script: Product Differentiation vs. Service Differentiation

DAY 5
- Integrated Marketing Communication
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Insurer gets fresh funds

NEW York Life Insurance, one of the United States' largest life insurers, yesterday said it had infused additional P350 million into its Philippine operations.

In a statement, New York Life Insurance Philippines chief executive and president George May said, "The new P350-million capital infusion will help NYLIP further its growth."

The company recently ramped up its annual sales target for 2003 to P200 million after reaching its target sales of P100 million in 2002.

The P350 million brings to P900 million New York Life's total investment in the country. It also indicates continued confidence in the local market despite the recent flurry of pullouts in the life insurance industry in 2002.

"We're banking on the government's forecast of 4 percent GDP growth this year, and this investment is the best evidence of our belief that the Philippines can achieve this kind of growth. We're definitely bullish on the market," May said.

Last year, two foreign insurance giants—MetLife and Aegon Life Insurance shut down their operations in the country. Aside from Metlife and Aegon, eight other insurers left the Philippines the few years due to the tightening of insurance regulations and the saturation of the local market.

For its part, NYLIP said it would continue to expand its operations in the country by setting up additional branch offices in the next several years and entering into a bancassurance partnership with Allied Bank. *Elena R. Torrijos*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, January 7, 2003)

BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.5	18	55,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	35	35.5	35	35	2,095,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	20,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30	30.5	59,700
Philippine National Bank	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	15,500
Phil. Savings Bank	26	28.5	26	28.5	5,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1250	1240	1245	1,320
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	945	930	940	4,510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15	13.75	13.75	174,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	447.5	450	447.5	450	49,600
Ipeople Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.68	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290	295	290	290	128,830
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.4	73,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10.5	10.5	9.8	9.9	1,729,600
Petron Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	274,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	620,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	15,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	3,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	524,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	5	35	35	35	43,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59	58.5	59	53,400
San Miguel Corp. B	65	65.5	65	65.5	234,400
Universal Robina Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.25	421,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	888,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	25,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	4,050,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	9.2	9.2	8.7	8.9	239,000
Ionics Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	772,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	3,140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	3,980,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	3,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.75	47,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	110,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	230,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	5,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	14.5	13.5	13.5	162,000
Jollibee Warrants	17	17	16	16	11,600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	19,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.55	4.6	9,010,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.85	0.88	0.85	0.88	1,430,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	9,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.75	9,324,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	9,160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	410,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	230,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,429,830	83,213,600.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	29,575,430	144,304,050.00
PRO	19,873,000	86,330,700.00
Mining	34,830,000	2,174,050.00
OIL	9,000,000	16,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	95,708,260	316,039,000.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	373.74	UP 0.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,462.70	UP 0.56
PRO	420.18	UP 13.42
Mining	1,246.33	UP 3.62
OIL	1.05	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	628.54	UP 8.96
Composite	1,019.59	UP 4.52

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 26; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 70; NO. OF TRADES: 1,553

CURRENCIES

Jan. 07, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.955019	1.000000	53.483000
Japan	Yen	0.008015	0.008393	0.448900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.536720	1.609100	86.059500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.122457	0.128225	6.857900
Switzerland	Franc	0.686422	0.718752	38.441000
Canada	Dollar	0.612506	0.641355	34.301600
Singapore	Dollar	0.549999	0.575904	30.801100
Australia	Dollar	0.550189	0.576103	30.811700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.533341	2.652661	141.872300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.254672	0.266667	14.262200
Brunei	Dollar	0.548420	0.574251	30.712700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000112	0.006000
Thailand	Baht	0.022345	0.023397	1.251300
UAE	Dirham	0.260046	0.272294	14.563100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.047100	56.002000
Argentina	Peso	0.287656	0.301205	16.109300
Brazil	Real	0.286706	0.300210	16.056100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134648	0.140990	7.540600
India	Rupee	0.019933	0.020872	1.116300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.251354	0.263193	14.076400
Mexico	New Peso	0.091802	0.096126	5.141100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509126	0.533106	28.512100
Norway	Kroner	0.138150	0.144657	7.736700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016463	0.017238	0.921900
South Africa	Rand	0.112527	0.117827	6.301700
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000841	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.110127	0.115314	6.167300
Syria	Pound	0.018544	0.019417	1.038500
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.027682	0.028986	1.550300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000680	0.000712	0.038100

DISCLOSURES

TRADING of shares of **Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc.** will remain suspended until it has complied with the exchange's reportorial requirements for the quarter that ended Sept. 30, 2002.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Queenbee Resources Corp.** said it would start paying on Jan. 10 the bonus warrants to all warrant holders as of Dec. 13.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 32,000 ILIB shares at P1.90 per share on Jan. 6 in line with its share buyback program.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.** appointed lawyer Bi Yong Chungunco as compliance officer to take charge of matters related to the company's manual on corporate governance, effective Jan. 1.

* * *

THE CHAIR of the board of **Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.** appointed Ramon Diokno and/or lawyer Ireneo Gacad Jr. as compliance officers in charge of the company's compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

* * *

LAWYER Rolando Faller was appointed, in a temporary capacity, compliance officer of **Vitarich Corp.** pursuant to SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2 series of 2002.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings bought 1 million treasury shares at P4.50 per share on Jan. 6.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., in line with its repurchase program, bought 32,000 of its own shares on Jan. 3 and 73,000 shares on Jan. 6.

* * *

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. said it had no information relating to the unusual price movement in the trading of its shares last Dec. 27 from P6 to P9 per share.

Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research

Napocor to bid out contracts

NATIONAL Power Corp. will bid out next month contracts worth about P3 billion for additional liquefied fuel supply for 2003.

A Napocor official, who requested anonymity, said the firm needed additional fuel supply mainly because of the El Niño phenomenon.

He said the firm would use more of its power barges to sustain adequate electricity supply in the Visayas and in Mindanao—the latter traditionally gets the bulk of its power supply from hydro power plants.

Napocor documents show that the firm's oil-fired power plants were short of 323.7 million liters of fuel oil and 11 million liters of diesel.

Early last year, the power firm had auctioned off supply contracts for its fuel needs covering an 18-month period ending December 2003.

The auction resulted in fifteen new contracts accounting for a total of 1.3 billion liters of fuel amounting to P9.4 billion.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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Camp John Hay	-	240,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	200,000
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Forest Hills "A"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	Please Call	280,000
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Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	-
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Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,600,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	700,000
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Metropolitan Club "A"	-	130,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	140,000
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Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	240,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	320,000	430,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,550,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,700,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	Please Call	360,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	770,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	170,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	330,000
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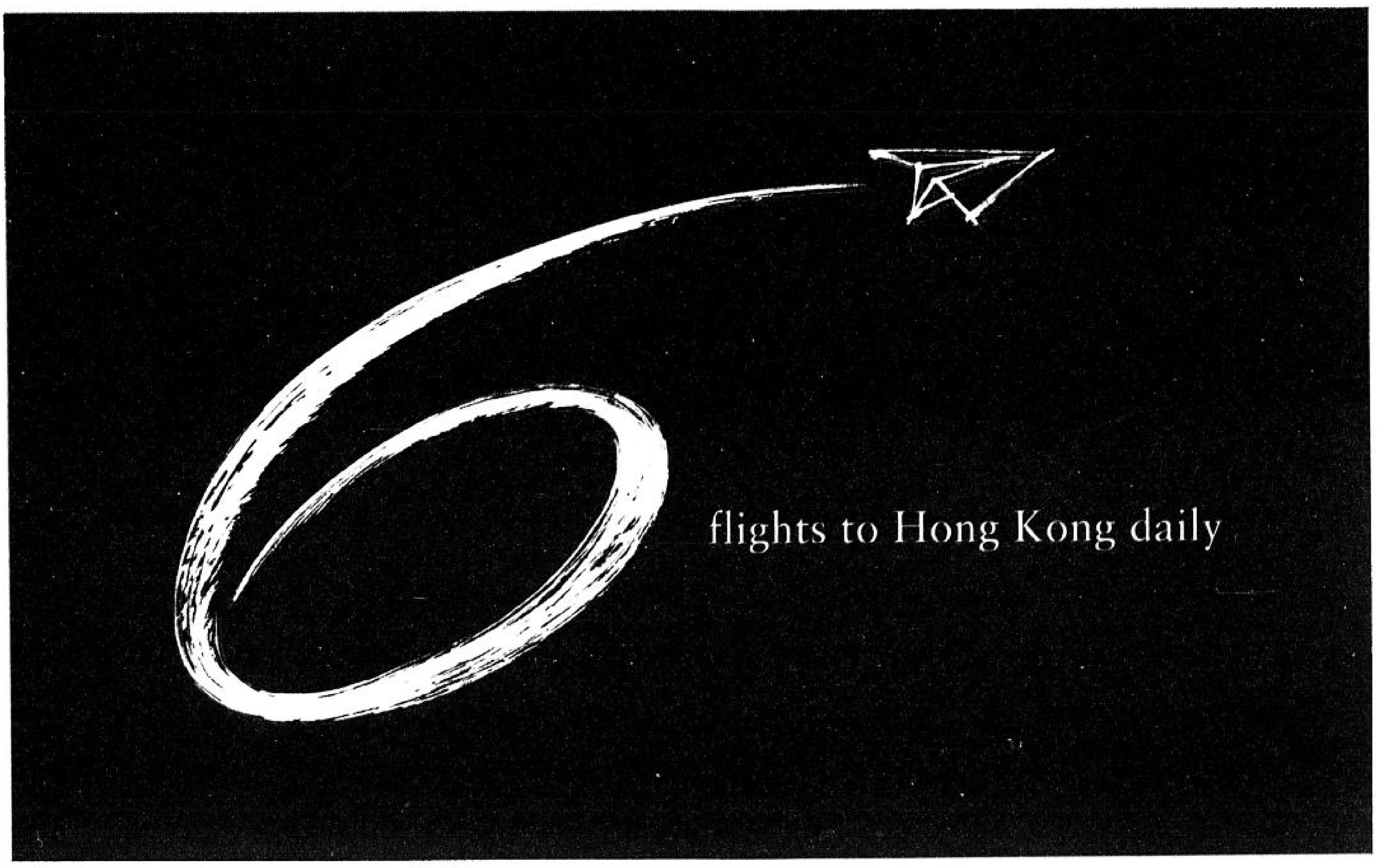
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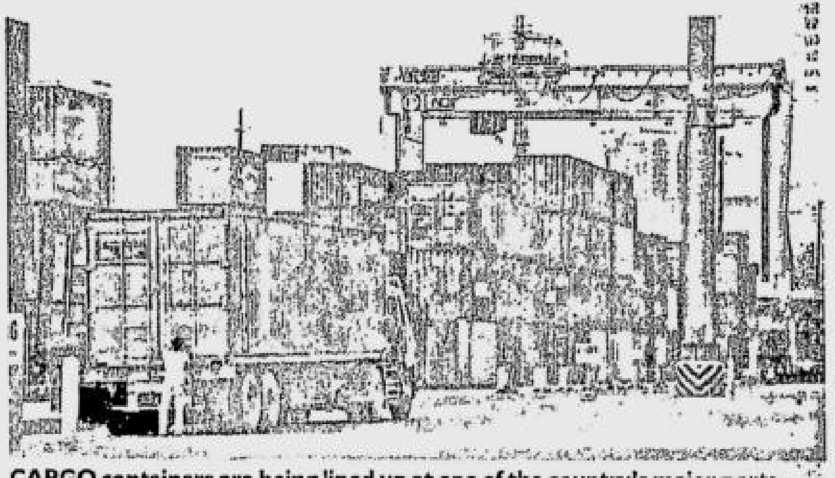
Finance execs admit understating import data

By Clarissa S. Batino



CARGO containers are being lined up at one of the country's major ports. These offer the most visible sign of trade, but is the government counting them up accurately?

THE GOVERNMENT has admitted it has been understating its import figures over the last two years, effectively overstating the country's current account surplus to give investors the impression that Philippine trade is healthy.

The admission came after an official of US financial adviser Moody's Investors Service revealed the problem.

Finance officials, however, were quick to downplay the significance of the "statistical glitch."

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura assured despite adjustments in import and current account data, the country's overall balance-of-payments position, as well as gross international reserves, would be unchanged.

A country's balance of payments is a record of all transactions it makes during a certain period of time. It compares the amount of economic activity between a country and all other countries.

This includes trade balance, foreign investments, and investments by foreigners among other things.

The Philippines had about $16.154 billion in reserves as of end-2002, up from $15.7 billion the previous year on account of the government's and state-run National Power Corp.'s aggressive borrowing.

The balance of payments, meanwhile, reflected a surplus of $751 million as of September last year.

The indicator is influenced by the current account, which reflects movements in trade, and the capital and financial account, which mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

An indicator of investors' confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, a balance of payments surplus means there are more dollars coming to the country as opposed to those coming out as a result of trade, investment and borrowings.

A strong payments position helps stabilize the local currency, as it dampens demand for dollars.

"There is no issue, and the adjustments we are trying to make is not a secret. The net effect is the same, so it should not affect confidence or the pricing of our borrowings," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in response to the Moody's report.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. has admitted that the current account surplus—at $3.929 billion as of September—will drop to a balance once the inter-agency task force formed to review the trade statistics finalizes the findings.

The task force is composed of the National Statistics Office, National Economic and Development Authority, National Statistics Coordination Board, Bureau of Customs, and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Tetangco said once imports, particularly of electronics passing through tax-free export zones, were reflected more accurately, the short-term capital outflow would consequently shrink.

He said the government would need to re-work the import and current account data as far back as 2000.

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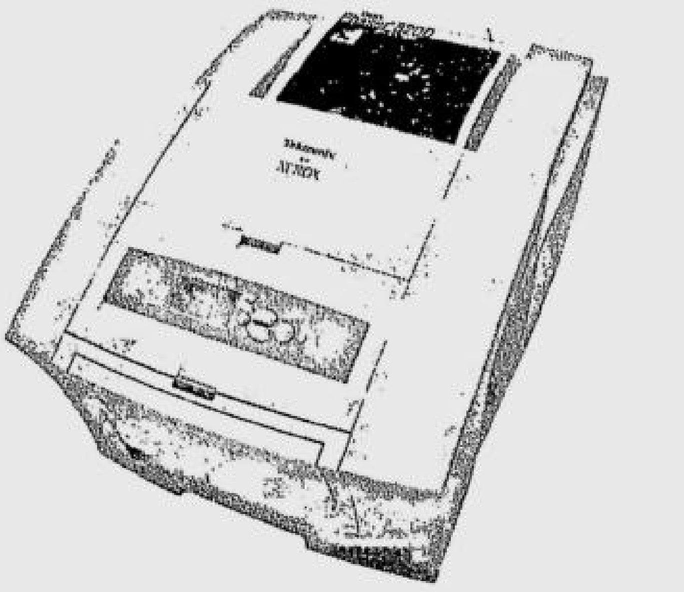

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RP top investment site among Taiwanese

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES emerged as the top investment site in Southeast Asia last year for Taiwanese businessmen following the government's aggressive marketing efforts to divert some of the Taiwanese capital pouring into China.

Citing a report by the Taiwan Industrial Development and Investment Center, Manila Economic and Cultural Office chair and chief executive officer Antonio Basilio said Taiwanese investments in the Philippines reached $82.833 million in the first 10 months of 2002.

The amount represented 44 percent of the $186.546 million worth of Taiwanese investments that made their way to Southeast Asia from January to October last year.

Other top recipients of Taiwanese investments in the region are Vietnam, $46.302 million; Malaysia, $29.167 million; Singapore, $17.535 million; and Indonesia, $9.06 million.

Basilio said Meco's unofficial investment tally showed a much bigger investment haul of $188.19 million than the figures Tidic provided.

These investments included Formosa Plastics Corp.'s 100-megawatt co-generation plant, $90 million; Ho Hung Construction Co. Ltd.'s low-cost housing project, $20 million; Gao-Ron Machinery Co. Ltd.'s auto parts project, $2 million; Taiwan Kolin Co. Ltd.'s air-conditioner manufacturing facility, $1.8 million; and Bol Chen Co. Ltd.'s wooden lunch box factory, $1.2 million.

Meco stepped up its efforts to attract investors from Taiwan to the Philippines last year by underscoring the importance of the country's proximity to Taiwan and its vast pool of skilled workers.

Meco wanted to ride on the Taiwan government's "Go South" policy, which encouraged its businessmen to reduce their investment holdings in China and diversify their portfolio to include countries south of Taiwan, particularly those in Southeast Asia.

Basilio said despite the robust growth of Taiwanese investments in the Philippines last year, these capital flows paled in comparison to China, which sucked in a total of $4.631 billion in Taiwanese investments during the same period.

Promo Dimensions, Inc. in P&G's Market Ops Awards

"Ariel and Sail Team"

"The Unsung Heroes"

"The Captain Award for Rey C. Barin"

Promo Dimensions, Incorporated (PDI), dominated the first ever Procter & Gamble (P&G) Philippine Team Market Operations Awards held last October 28, 2002 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental, Manila. PDI bagged seven (7) major awards in the highly prestigious event attended by P&G's top executives.

Championing breakthrough idea and execution, the Ariel Saturation Marketing Team and Sail Readymade Water Station Mini Market Project Team won the "Innovation Award" while the equally dynamic Team of Tide Total Wash Multi-Level Marketing and Micro Integration was honored with the "Trail Blazer Award".

Displaying impressive strength from the diversity and talent of its people, distinguished PDI employees garnered several individual awards. Head of Field Operations Group, Rey C. Barin was the recipient of The Captain Award; Ramon Mabini, Cecille Manalili and Allen Babao were recognized as Unsung Heroes while Cris Filipinia was granted the Special Appreciation Award. The event also acknowledged company employees via the "Employee Champion Award", which was awarded to PDI's Organizational Capability/HR/ Logistics Team.

Finally, the President's Cup - the most coveted and prestigious award for the night, went to the exceptional Team of Tide Nature Fresh for its Higante vs. Bulilit Campaign.

PDI is Procter and Gamble's field agency that supports marketing campaigns through below-the-line activities, focusing on direct-to-consumer strategies.

"The President's Cup Award was bagged by the Tide Team"

15 mining projects given priority; gov't seen earning at least ₱1B

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has identified for priority funding 15 projects that the government is hoping will revitalize the local mining industry and generate over P1 billion in tax revenues in the next 17 months.

According to the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau, these projects are in the government's priority list of possible foreign and local direct investments.

The list obtained by the INQUIRER includes projects being undertaken by Benguet Corp., Pacific Nickel Philippines Inc., Hinatuan Mining Corp., Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc., Alsons Development Corp., Indophil Resources, Rio Tuba Mining, Lafayette (Philippines) Inc., Care Mining, King Eagle Exploration and Mining Corp., Marbleland Mining and Development Corp., UBS Corp., Heritage Resources, Joson Mining Corp., FilMinera Mineral Resources Corp. and Platinum Group Metals Corp.

Most of these are short- to medium-term projects expected to be ready in 18 months.

The government and the private sector are also hoping to develop at least five world-class mining projects that can generate some $5 billion in revenues.

The Chamber of Mines, which counts as its members Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., Philex Mining Corp. and Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp., and the government are looking at the Tampacan mining project of Western Mining Corp., Kingking copper-gold project of Benguet Mining Corp., Buyungan project of Philex Mining, Far South East copper mining project of Lepanto Mining, and the Pujada and Broxpoint nickel mining projects of Philippine Nickel Mining Corp.

These projects will place the Philippines at par with other metal- and non-metal-producing and exporting countries such as India and Africa, Artemio Disini, president of the Chamber of Mines and Lepanto Mining, said.

The lack of government support and prevailing anti-mining sentiments have trimmed the industry's potential in the last 40 years.

According to Chamber of Mines vice president Patrick Caoile, mining only contributes less than 10 percent to the country's export earnings as compared to 20 years ago, when it contributed some 20 to 25 percent.

SM Prime buying back shares to check steep drop in stock prices

By Doris C. Dumlao

RETAIL tycoon Henry Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's biggest shopping mall chain, is buying back shares for the first time since 2001 following a steep price fall in the stock market in recent days.

SM Prime disclosed yesterday that it bought a million treasury shares at P4.50 each on Monday.

This developed as the share price of SM Prime fell sharply after Christmas day due to the market's expectation of lower sales output for the fourth quarter.

A decline of 10 percent was recorded from Dec. 27 to Jan. 3.

Last week, SM Prime's shares fell 7.9 percent to P4.40, with the biggest drop of 5 percent seen on Friday.

As of this week, SM Prime shares have stabilized.

Yesterday, its shares were up by 20 centavos to P4.75.

The last time SM Prime repurchased shares from the open market was in 2001. For 2000 and 2001, it bought back about 11.5 million shares.

Listed companies with sufficient retained earnings usually buy back shares when they feel that their shares are undervalued by the market.

In this case, traders said the buyback was meant to arrest the steep drop of SM Prime share price in recent days.

Analysts said most of the malls in Metro Manila recorded weak sales in October and might not have recovered sufficiently in November and December despite the onset of the Christmas season when sales are seasonally the highest.

The weak consumer purchasing power and the significant market share gobbled up by the informal retailers like the bazaars and "tiangges" were also expected to have weighed down on mall output during the season.

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AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of July, '02 on Jan. 21, '03 10am, Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **NUMERIANO R. MEDEL** has been extra-judicially settled with his heir as per Doc. No. 225; Page No. 46; Book No. XV; Series of 2002, before Atty. Jimmy D. Lacebal, Notary Public, Mandaluyong City.
(PDI-Dec. 25, Jan. 1, 8, 2002).

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **IRENEO V. GUERRERO**, who died on January 9, 2001, the object of settlement is executed by his heirs before Notary Public Expedito Mapa of Naga City as per Doc.#570, Page#57, Book#19, Series of 2002 (PDI-Jan. 8,15 & 22, 2002)

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NOTICE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Notice is hereby given that on 18th December 2002 the Restraint Order (HCMP 4221 of 2002) issued by Mr. Justice Lugar-Mawson in the Hong Kong Court of First Instance under the provisions of Section 15 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong was continued until further notice by order of the Recorder L. LOK SC. The following persons and companies are named as Respondents to the Order.

Amador PASTRANA Philippines passport ZZ017001 Date of birth 4th May 1972.	Respondent 1
Alpha Company Ltd. Company No. 15011	Respondent 2
Jindell Investment Ltd. Company No. 367520	Respondent 3
Jupiter Advisory Ltd. Company No. 407452	Respondent 4
First Pacific Company Ltd. Company No. 7009	Respondent 5
Systems International Ltd. Company No. 105043B	Respondent 6
Callmax Enterprises Ltd. Company No. 407451	Respondent 7
Cyplus Company Ltd. Company No. 114160B	Respondent 8
Joplo Company Ltd. Company No. 16592	Respondent 9
Nobuko Investments Ltd. Company No. 371740	Respondent 10
Prudence International Ltd. Company No. 16156	Respondent 11
Wains International Company Ltd. Company No. 391025	Respondent 12
Moneycare International Ltd. Company No. 407450	Respondent 13
Chamomile International Ltd. Company No. 741159	Respondent 14
Highstone Investments Ltd. Company No. 112158B	Respondent 15
Sabre International Ltd. Company No. 6470	Respondent 16
Vantage International Management Group Inc. Company No. 8403	Respondent 17
Union Trading Ltd. Company No. 15014	Respondent 18
Novelle Investment Partners Ltd. (Bahamas) Company No. 81563B	Respondent 19
United Resources Asset Management Inc. SEC Reg. No. A200005310	Respondent 20
Allied European Holdings Ltd. Company No. 8313	Respondent 21

Any person or company who is a Respondent to the above Order, can obtain a copy of the said Order and the supporting affirmations from either Mr. Jose Tomas SYQUIA Head of Enforcement and Compliance of the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Organised Crime and Triad Bureau, Hong Kong Police, 22nd Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

(PDI - Jan. 8, 2003)

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Mahabang Kahoy, Indang, Cavite

Request the pious prayer for the repose of the soul of our Chairman and/or President,

ENGR. NOLASCO Y. GONZALES SR.

Peacefully left us to rest in the loving embrace of our Lord on January 5, 2003 at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church Burol 2nd, Balagtas, Bulacan. Daily masses for the repose of his soul are celebrated: January 7 and 8 at 8:00 PM and January 9, 2003 at 9:00 AM.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 9, 2003, 3:00 PM at the Eternal Gardens, 343 Baesa Road, Caloocan City after the 1:30 PM Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Parish Church, Morning Breeze Subdivision, Caloocan City.

In lieu of flowers, your donation to the Bahay Pari Foundation will be highly appreciated.

In Loving Memory
of Our Beloved Daddy

ENGR. NOLASCO Y. GONZALES SR.

of Pulong Gubat, Balagtas, Bulacan and Morning Breeze Subdivision, Caloocan City.

Peacefully left us to rest in the loving embrace of our Lord on January 5, 2003 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Nene** and children: **Al & Merlyn, Nodgie & Idy, Joy & Mar, Ophelia, Lorenz & Jeanette**; grandchildren, **Kaye & Paulo, Michelle, Erika, Mik Mik & Nico** (†), **Madel, Menan, Niccolo & Monty**, relatives and friends request prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church Burol 2nd, Balagtas, Bulacan. Daily Masses for the repose of his soul are celebrated: January 7 and 8 at 8:00 PM and January 9, 2003 at 9:00 AM.

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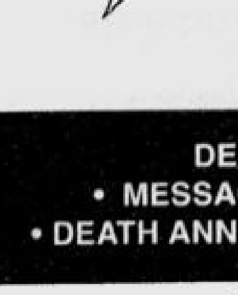

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

"You will always be in our hearts, Papa"
In Loving Memory
on the
Tenth Death Anniversary
of

Jose Ma. L. Javellana

who passed away on January 8, 1993

His loving wife **Consuelo**; children & children-in-law, grandchildren & great grandchildren, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish (*Forbes Park, Makati*)	7:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Don Bosco Parish (*Pasay Road, Makati*)	7:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King (*Greenmeadows, Quezon City*)	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
San Sebastian Cathedral (*Bacolod*)	6:00 a.m. 6:15 p.m.
Sacred Heart Shrine (*Bacolod*)	6:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Redemptorist Church (*Bacolod*)	6:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

ANGELES (TALA) POBLETE OCAMPO

(August 02, 1921 - January 05, 2003)
of Naic, Cavite and Tondo, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on 05 January 2003 at the age of 81.

Her devoted husband **Atty. Vicente (Deng) T. Ocampo**; her loving children **Juliet** and **Dante** (†) **Luistro, Aida** and **Gus Santos, Nelia** and **Johnny Julian, Antonio (Chito)** and **Myrtle, Vicente, Jr. (Boying)** and **Yoly, Atty. Ramoncito (Monching)** and **Esther, Gloria (Nenette)** and **Joon Navarro**, and **Pepper** and **Cielo**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels (2/F Premier Chapel) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Date of Interment at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City will be announced later.

CAME TO PASS

RODOLFO GALVAN GUARIÑO

2nd Lt., PA (Retired)

Co-Author : The Holy Bible (In the form of a novel), King James version of 1611

His loving children **Norma, Carmencita, Reynaldo, Josefina, Laureana, Romulo** and **Imelda**; sons and daughters-in-law; brother **Mamerto G. Guariño** & sister **Consolacion G. Zamora**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence, 2459 Espiritu St., Singalong, Malate, Manila.

Interment on Thursday, January 9, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at South Cemetery.

Prayer for the soul of

Patrocinio "Pat" I. Torres

of Sta. Cruz, Laguna & San Pablo City
who passed away on December 9, 2002

Dear God of mercy and light, we pray for your full embrace of our mother in your Kingdom. Grant us further resolve to give more of ourselves to others in keeping with her acceptance of your will of a life of love. Thank you to all those who mourned and prayed with us. Protect and bless them with your strength and wisdom. Through the Holy Spirit, help us to see Jesus more clearly and to follow him more faithfully.

Lovingly remembered by her husband Pepito; Joselito, Belinda, Jose Angelo and Bea Andrea; Josefino, Carmela, Carmel Christine, Caroline Charmaine and Claire Claudine; Jose, Leonila and Julienne; Maria Paz T. Urcia, Luis and Jose Edru; Maria Piedad, Faith Marie Therese and Justin Gabriel; Maria Pureza T. Perea and Rodolfo; and Maria Pilar.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:7 – 9

I am
the
way,
the
truth
and
the
life.
No
one
comes
to
the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

Time cannot destroy Her Memory, years can never erase the tenderness. And the beauty of the Love in a Mother's face.... And, when we think of our Mother, We draw near to God above, For only God in his greatness could fashion a MOTHER'S LOVE.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

LOLITA ORTIZ BORJA

Former Vice-Mayor & Board Member
August 11, 1922–January 4, 2003 of Gapan City

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 4, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her loving husband **THOMAS (†)** and children; **1) LINDA & LITO ENRIQUEZ**; Liza, Lolly, Patrick Peter **2) RAUL & LYDIA BORJA**; Rommel, Richie, Joy **3) VICKY & FIDEL MAGISTRADO**; Jasmin, Ryan, Vince, JC, Faith, Leila **4) BOYET & SUSAN BORJA**; Bunny, Kaye, Nina, Ricci, TJ **5) MARIO (†) 6) MARILYN & KENT WAHLBERG**; Alexis, Sean, Amanda **7) FRANCIS & MAYETTE BORJA**; Hazel & Gary Ong-Gail, Corinne, Liah, C.P., Cheska **8) BENNY BORJA**; Benjie, Theo, Maricris, Dino, Benny **9) EDWIN BORJA 10) ORIN & PIA BORJA**; Paolo, Derik, Joshua, Mark, Katrina **11) EDDIE & CECILLE BORJA**; Trixie **12) BEBOT & GINO FUNGO**; Din-Din; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at F.O.B. residence at Sto. Niño, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on **January 09, 2003**, Thursday 9:00 AM
at **Gapan Memorial Garden.**

For inquiries call Hazel Ong at **0917-540-5821**

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me will live even when he dies, and no one who lives and believes in Me will never die."

Our Dearly Beloved

FELIPE "Philip" F. RAMBOYONG

(May 1, 1923 – January 4, 2003)
of Iriga City, Camarines Sur / Modesta Village
San Mateo, Rizal

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 4, 2003 at the age of 79.

His loving wife, **RHODORA B. RAMBOYONG**; children **JERRY & RORIE, DANDY & AYMA, DODOY (†), MARITESS & PETE, BOBBY & EVELYN, GIGI**, and **JOJO**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, nieces, nephews and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at **Arlington Memorial Chapel B**, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 11, 2003 at the **Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City** after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

With deep sorrow,

HONDA

HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC.

announces the demise of

Ambassador JOSE S. LAUREL, III

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 6, 2003.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Friday, January 10, 2003 immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Parish of St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

May he rest in peace.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.

I Corinthians 2:9

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
PURIFICACION UY SOBIERRA	Jan. 8	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. 12 G. Araneta Ave., QC
ERNESTO I. SALVADOR	Jan. 9	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	1210 Venus St., Constellation Homes Angono, Rizal
ANGIE A. PATIAG	Jan. 11	9:00 AM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Arlington Chapels Pasig City

www.holygardens.com

FRANCISCO C. VIRAY

Peacefully joined his Creator and his wife ***Felicidad****,*
on January 4, 2003 at the age of 79.

His loving family **Zenaida; Ma. Teresita; Wilfredo & Blessilda; Ma. Divina & William Theodore;** and **Roy;** grandchild **Teddi Frances**; sister **Fredesvinda**; in-laws and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 9, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me will live even when he dies, and no one who lives and believes in Me will never die."

Our Dearly Beloved

PACIFICO R. NER

(April 30, 1913 – January 5, 2003)
of Cavite & LA, U.S.A.

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 5, 2003 at the age of 89.

His loving children **Josefina** (†) and **Winston S. Suguitan**, **Pacifico Jr.** and **Cora**, **Maureen** and **Mark Ross**, and **Grace**; his grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state in LA, U.S.A.

Interment will be announced later.

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Announce with deep sorrow the
passing of our beloved
Founding Chairman and Past President

Ambassador JOSE S. LAUREL, III

He peacefully joined his Creator on
January 6, 2003 at the age of 88.

His loving wife BEATRIZ,
children: Antonio, Jose V, Francis, Ma. Elena, Mercedes, Benjamin, Christine and Eduardo,
their husbands and wives grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, other relatives
and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish,
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Friday, January 10, 2003 immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass
at the Parish of St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Philippine Institute of Japanese Language
and Culture at 825 R. Papa Street, Sampaloc, Manila will be highly appreciated.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED "DADDY"

AMBASSADOR JOSE S. LAUREL, III

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 6, 2003 at the age of 88.

*His loving wife, **BEATRIZ***
*Children: **Antonio, Jose V, Francis, Ma. Elena, Mercedes,***
***Benjamin, Christine** and **Eduardo**, their spouses, grandchildren,*
great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends
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Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Philippine Institute
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condole with the family of our Founder, Chairman, Adviser and President Emeritus

AMBASSADOR JOSE S. LAUREL, III

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 6, 2003.

His remains lie in state
at St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish,
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

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In lieu of flowers, donations to the
Philippine Institute of Japanese Language and Culture
at 825 R. Papa Street, Sampaloc, Manila will be highly appreciated.

The Board of Directors,
Management and Staff of

Toyota Batangas City, Inc.

join the Laurel family
in grateful appreciation to
God
for the life of

Ambassador JOSE S. LAUREL, III

who went home to his Creator on
January 6, 2003 at the age of 88.

His beloved wife ***BEATRIZ,***
Children: ***Antonio, Jose V, Francis, Ma. Elena, Mercedes***
Benjamin, Christine *and* ***Eduardo,*** *their husbands and wives,*
grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters,
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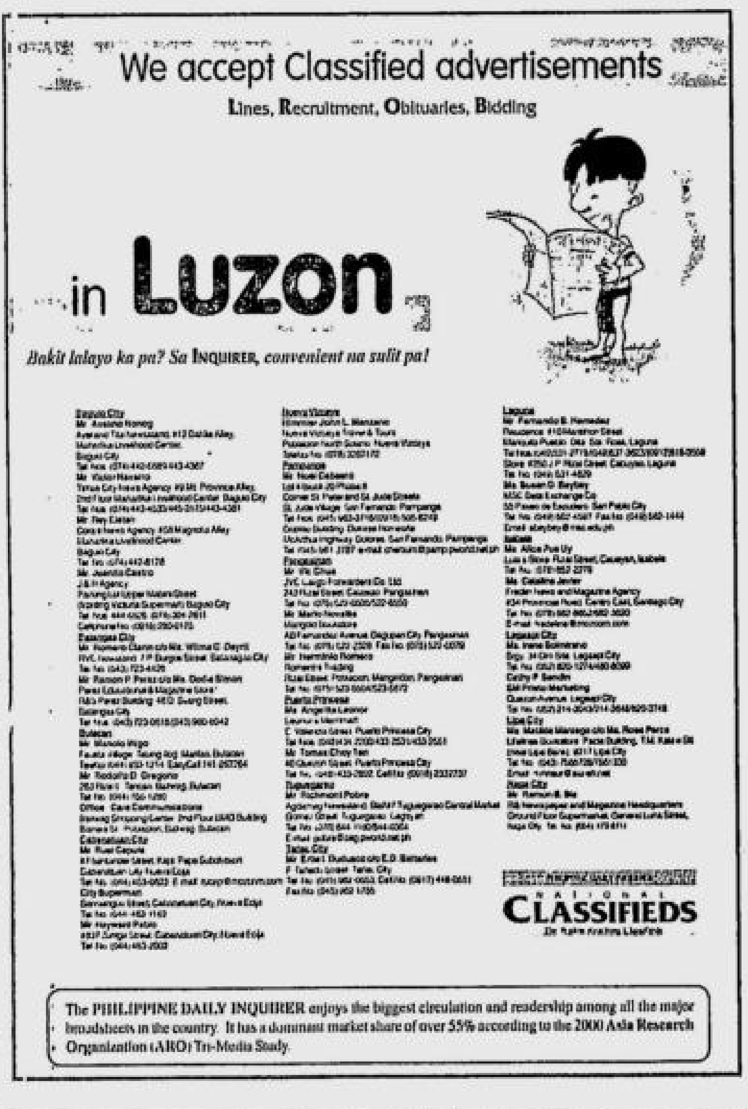
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Marketing graduate becomes vocal coach to stars

By Manolita A. Gonzales

MARICOR Castañer-Sanchez sits at the technician's booth and motions to the upcoming sexy star at the recording room to begin. The star, a non-singer, croons to the minus one and misses a note. Maricor pushes a button to give instructions. She sings a few lines to show how the song goes.

Maricor's voice is crisp, full and tone-perfect. She urges the sexy star, to relax, try again. The recording takes more than an hour. When the final version is played back, the star is amazed at how good she sounds.

Maricor is vocal coach to celebrities and aspiring singers but she could have been a celebrity herself. She is a mestiza and as pretty as the sexy stars she coaches. "Ito ang masarap i-promote (as a singer)," comedian-singer Nanette Inventor once said of her. "She's got the voice and the looks!"

Fulfillment

But Maricor, "Eat Bulaga"'s vocal coach, has tasted her share of the limelight and opted to concentrate on what she is equally good at: vocal coaching. As professional singer, she recorded two solo albums for Alpha Records under the name "Marika," and recorded the single "You're my everything" with jukebox star Victor Wood.

That single earned a double platinum award in 1998. It would have kicked off her career further but Maricor chose to move out of center-stage.

Though her chosen career is not your usual corporate job, it gives Maricor a sense of accomplishment. "It is a vocal coach's

CAREER TALES

fulfillment when an artist is pleased with the output," says Maricor, who has been a professional singer and vocal coach since 1990. Sharon Cuneta, Michael V, Jolina Magdangal, Martin Nievera, Judy Ann Santos, Piolo Pascual, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Kuh Ledesma, Donita Rose, Nanette Inventor, Lani Misalucha, Jimmy Santos, Jaya, Carol Banawa, the Sex Bomb Girls, the cast of Click and Regine Velasquez are just some of the divas, singers and showbiz stars whom Maricor has coached in her more than 14 years in the music industry.

"The only celebrities I haven't coached yet are Gary Valenciano, Gretchen and Claudine Baretto, Diether Ocampo and some other contract stars of ABS-CBN," she says.

Career shift

Maricor has been good at singing since she was small. "My dad used to sing professionally," she says. "He and I used to sing duets for relatives during parties." Maricor, however, did not bask in the limelight; she performed in school only when there was no choice. She finished a marketing course at St. Joseph's College.

But fate had another career in store for her. While malling with a friend, Maricor saw a promo offering voice lessons at the Yamaha School of Music. "We were fresh graduates and we didn't want to apply for a job yet," she recalls. "So we tried."

Maricor finished the four-week course and was given a scholarship by Yamaha so she could continue learning vocalization and belting out. In 1990, she enrolled at the Philippine Center for Pop Music and was personally coached by the center's head to sing, and because she was "talkative," to do vocal coaching for other students. She began to see a career in music.

Priorities

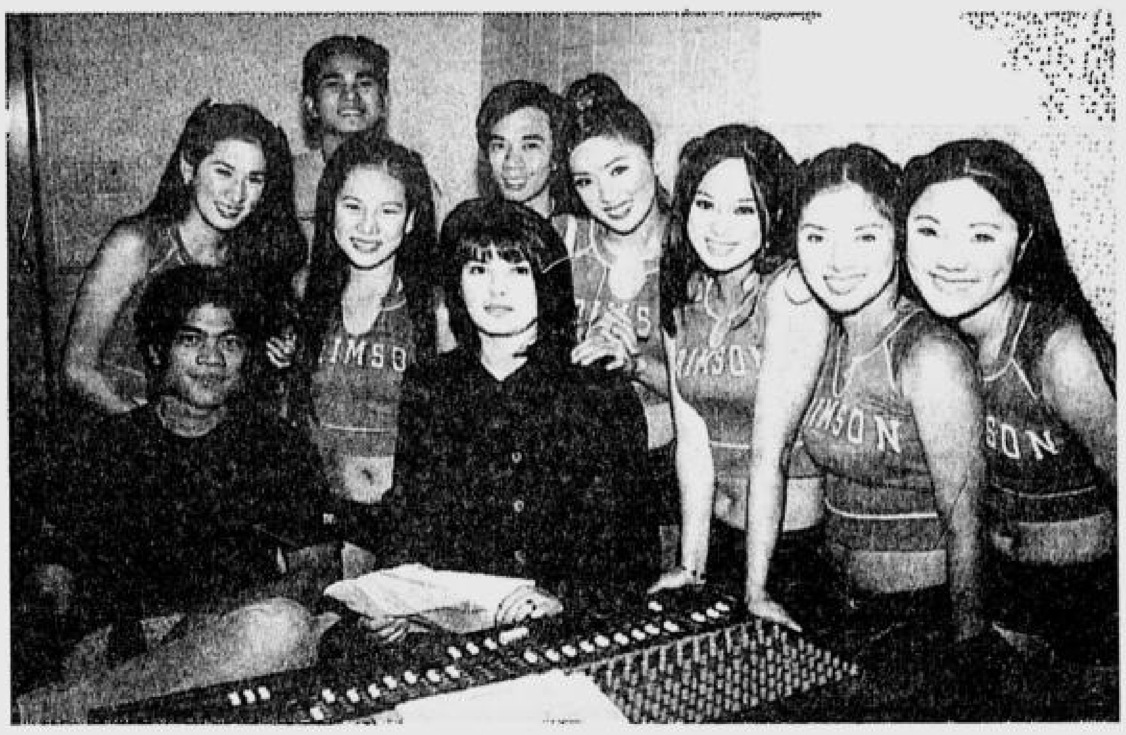
She excelled both at singing and coaching. She was hired as official vocal coach of the 1992 Film Academy of the Philippines' Awards Night, where she guided celebrities for their production numbers. Sunshine Records and later, Alpha Records signed her up for a solo album.

Maricor promoted her albums and the platinum record with Victor Wood and shortly after, got married to Vic Sanchez, who manages Salsa Rossa, a fine dining restaurant.

"Vic was very supportive of my singing career so that was my priority during our first two years of marriage," she says. But she had a problem conceiving and needed a medical work up to have baby. "I had to prioritize whether to have a baby or to go on singing. I decided on having a baby."

Coaching for "Eat Bulaga"

As vocal coach, Maricor helps hosts and guests of "Eat Bulaga," a noontime television variety show, record their songs for special production numbers. "When we do a medley for Bulaga," she says, "we use cuts from several songs and invite artists or stars to pre-record these in the studio. The artists have no idea about the production so I'm there to guide them."



SANCHEZ with "Eat Bulaga" crew and the Sex Bomb dancers

Maricor sings the "guide" or recording of the medley to give artists an idea of how the production flows. During the recording, she watches out for flats and sharps, correct tonal problems like sintunado (out of tune) or desafinado, which is not really sintunado but slightly sharp or flat, "hindi exacto.."

"Mistakes are hardly noticed in a live performance," she explains. "When a song is recorded, all the flaws stand out. We record the songs so that it comes out, if not perfect, at least close to perfect."

Standards

Maricor admits that she is known for being "strikto." I'm here to correct mistakes, not to patrionize the artists because the flaws would also reflect on me. I get paid per artist and get the same fee whether I coach for a minute or two hours."

"Sometimes I go into the technical side of singing," she says. "I give breathing techniques if the artists say they hindi ko abot, eh. If they follow instructions, they hit the high notes and say 'ah, so that's how it's done.' I'm not selfish. I share the singing techniques I learned. That cuts down our recording time and the artists appreciate that."

After the recording, Maricor does the back up vocals either alone or with other singers. She marks the tracks for the technician, who uses the magic of technology to improve the recording.

Labor of love

"You really have to be patient in this kind of work," Maricor says. "I cannot say that this is an easy job but I cannot complain. I don't have to work eight hours a day, six days a week. I may work more than eight hours a day but only for one to two days a week and the compensation is okay." This set up is ideal for when the baby comes.

Maricor sees vocal coaching as a labor of love. " You need dedication for this kind of work. I hope the artists also see it that way."

How to add value to corporate strategy

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I am an avid reader of your column at People at Work. I find it very interesting and full of ideas on how to run a corporation. Please give your views on how to add value to the corporate strategies at the business unit level. What do you think of a corporate strategy where management implements best practices organization wide? What if the corporate strategy does not add value at the business unit level? What if, as a manager, I would rather work on developing my own strategies at the business unit level?

Curious Subhead

Thank you for your letter. It focuses on your concerns as a strategic business unit head trying to align with corporate strategy. My impression is your company has a number of diversified strategic business units. Your company may have an incomplete strategy planning process that stops at planning but may be short in implementation.

Process

Corporate strategies are developed at head office or at the holding company level. Then these are deployed or brought down to the business unit level as part of strategy implementation.

In my view, strategic planning is important because it allows a company not just to be concerned with the day-to-day operations that deliver current bottom-line results. It ensures that some of the energy of the organization is focused on building part of the future today.

Strategic plans are not meant to be nicely written and then left on the shelf to be reopened in the next planning session the next year. Strategic plans have to be brought down from corporate headquarters to strategic business unit levels then down to the individual performance management level.

There has to be a continuous process of iteration and feedback so that in the course of the year, strategies are refined. Strategy implementation is a dynamic and constantly evolving process.

Context

As a strategic business unit head, you have to understand the context of the strategies that are handed down to you. Indeed, you have to see a clear alignment between corporate strategy and business strategy. If you don't, then it is your duty to raise your concerns immediately to your superiors.

Make sure your objections are not driven by your comfort zone, meaning, by your desire to keep the status quo because the new strategy is uncomfortable. Keep your mind open as you seek clarification.

But before approaching your boss, do your homework. Anticipate his/her questions and arm yourself with facts and figures. Corporate management typically would have access to the best information sources on markets and the external environment to make sound decisions around strategy alternatives.

It would be sad if you develop your own business strategies that are misaligned with the corporate strategy and therefore not adding value. Your feedback can be of value in trying to develop the operational details of the strategy. Typically at the strategic business unit level, you would have a set of lower level strategies and measurable objectives that are shared and agreed upon with corporate management. Different companies have different vocabularies around planning but in essence, what is critical is making the strategies work down to the lowest level in the organization.

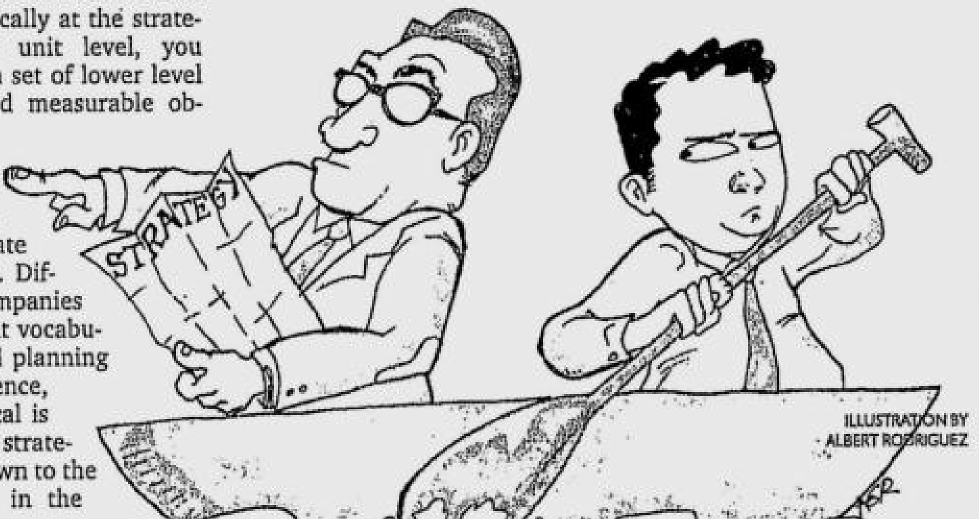


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Benchmarking

Finally, on your question around a strategy of implementing best practices, I believe that in this age of globalization, it is important to benchmark corporate practices with best global practices.

Even if one serves the local market, the competition is global in orientation. The explosion and speed of information keeps the consumer enlightened and more demanding of quality products and services. It is great to be world class in corporate practices.

However, a word of caution. Don't just download best practices without studying consequences. People may end up confused and disoriented. It is critical for management to create readiness for the awareness, acceptance and eventually the adoption of these practices in the organization.

Thank you for your concern to do quality work on strategy alignment. It can spell out the difference between strategies that work and don't work. It also ensures that the efforts and energies of managers like you are focused like a laser in achieving results.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Have a good beginning for body, mind and spirit

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

ALL good men are beginners. A dear friend threw this phrase my way over 10 years ago and I have since made it my own. He himself had coined it from a Roman writer and handed it to me as I was beginning a new phase in my life.

He must have anticipated some stumbling, some false starts, some naïve and foolish moves as I stepped into a new adventure, but he also knew that anyone willing to try (and try again) would always have a well of goodness to draw from.

Starting from scratch

A clean slate, a bare canvass, a clean sheet of paper, a new year-all these offer a chance at being good beginners. There is tremendous grace that comes our way when we say, we want to be an even better person this year and we are willing to take the beginner's steps toward that goal. As working moms, we can look at striving for that balance we've been craving so much for. Let's begin the year by making the resolution that we will strive for better work-life harmony.

In the December-January 2003 issue of Metro Working Mom (MWM), we offer ideas on how you can start the year with a plan that will celebrate your body, nourish your mind, and nurture your spirit. If you are to make an effective impact in your family and in the workplace in 2003, you'll have to make sure that you have enough reserve in your body, mind, and spirit to tackle the challenges ahead and to bring the best of yourself to your family and work. Here are some resolutions you can try out.

Celebrate your body

* Take an executive check-up. We send our cars to a mechanic after 1,000 miles. Why don't we treat our bodies with the same concern? Get a comprehensive medical examination: X-ray, stress tests, blood and urine chemistry, cholesterol count. Consider it as a self-nurturing act. I'm not afraid of being sick; I just want to give my body the attention it deserves. (Time required: one day)

* Eliminate distressing noises. We don't consciously pay attention to sounds, but they can make a big difference in our moods. For one week, pay attention to the kind of noises in your home and work environment and their effect on you. For example, do your co-workers' voices distract you? Does the hum of outdoor traffic lull you to sleep? Then find a way to minimize irritating sounds: heavy drapes, repositioning your desk, a Discman. You'll notice the change in your energy and mood. (Time required: one week)

* Find a sport the whole family can enjoy. Kill two birds with one stone, and get fit while having fun with the family. Bowling, wall climbing, badminton, or ballroom dancing anything goes, as long as everyone's willing to try it for at least a month before quitting. (Time required: three to five hours a week)

Nourish your mind

* Read a good book. There's more to the written word than monthly reports and e-mail forwards. Devote at least thirty minutes a day to reading a good book. If you don't know where to start, log on to www.bookbrowser.com/ReadingList, which lists authors by genre (mystery, inspirational, romance) and award winners in each genre.

* Actively enroll in Life 101. Treat each day as an opportunity to learn. At the end of each day, take out your journal and pick an event to reflect on. Write down the lessons of that experience. (Time required: 20 minutes)

* Have lunch with someone you don't know very well. The best and easiest way to broaden your horizons is to see the world from another person's eyes. Start with someone you usually tend to ignore the office receptionist, your next-door neighbor. Not only will you gain a new friend, but also you'll be reminded of the many interesting things we tend to take for granted. (Time required: one hour)

Nurture your spirit

* Make a "Happy Box" for your cubicle. This year, you will spend at least 2,160 hours in the office. Inject some fun and pleasure into those moments by keeping a box full of silly, refreshing, and relaxing things. You may include an aromatherapy kit, pictures, a stress ball, meaningful souvenirs, a journal, a book of inspiring quotes, or a comic book.

* Congratulate yourself at the end of every day. We play a difficult juggling act, and every task we manage to accomplish is a reason to pat ourselves on the back. Before you go to sleep, be sure to identify at least five things that you're proud of. Remember the small things. (Time required: five minutes)

* Do something you've always wanted to do. We all have our little fantasies, an activity that's on our list of "Things To Do Before I Die." Why wait?

Set some time this month and the rest of the year for these activities. Remember, your work and your family will be okay, only if you are okay, too. Have a good beginning.

(An Mercado Alcantara is editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom published by ABS-CBN Publishing. For more tips, get a copy of this month's issue with Vilma Santos on the cover. You may reach her at rmwm_abscbn@skyinet.net)

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

How to tell an employee she made a mistake

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

DEAR WW: Recently one of my people made a mistake and I blew up in her face. Two weeks later, she quit. Looking back, I realize that I overreacted. How can I prevent this from happening again?

Even Bosses Get The Blues

When it comes to employee screw-ups, I think there are two types of bosses in the world: the "Homers" and the "Cliffs." The Homers (as in Simpson) yell first and investigate later. The Cliffs (from the old Cosby show) investigate so long you wish they would yell. It appears that you were listening to your inner Homer when you reacted.

Now, I like spending quality time with Homer and Cliff as much as the next guy, but I'm not sure I'd want to work for either one. The best bosses that I've had turn employee mistakes into learning opportunities. So next time you discover a mistake by one of your people, take a deep breath and try asking yourself the following questions.

Does the worker know she made a mistake? Now, the engineers at Chernobyl knew they'd made a mistake. But most employee errors don't result in that kind of meltdown (short of their boss' that is). So don't assume she knows about her misstep. Ask her how she views the situation-then explain why there's a problem.

Do you know why she acted as she did? Go back with her to the moment of decision. Listening to her reasons will show you how she thinks, how she perceives her responsibility and authority, how she perceives you. A small amount of corporate anthropology here will teach you both a lot.

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Does she understand the ramifications of her action? To you they're self-evident: your boss is ragging on you; the crucial deadline is likely to be missed, there's going to be a loss where a profit was supposed to be... But she probably doesn't have access to that data. We often expect employees to understand the consequences of their actions without giving them the information they need to do so.

Did the employee understand your expectations? Often mistakes are made because employees are trying to second-guess you. Had you communicated exactly what you wanted? Where her authority stopped? Your willingness to help? Communicating these things now can forestall disasters in the future.

Have you explained how to fix the problem? There's nothing worse for an employee than trying to fix a mistake only to dig the hole deeper. So take the guesswork out of the repair business and walk her through the steps. She'll learn valuable bits of your business in the process.

All of these tips really boil down to communication-making your expectations clear, keeping the channels open, getting feedback from employees so you know how they perceive the situation. (It also helps to remember the employee point of view. For a crash course, check out Rivethead by Ben Hamper, Warner Books, 1991).

The alternative, of course, is to keep pulling a "Homer." But you may find after a while that there's no one left at home. Not even your inner Marge.

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Food for the working soul

LIFE and work have become hectic and complicated. There's too much to do and not enough time. We rush from one meeting to another to another to another. And when we return to the office, there are five, 10, 15, 20, or more voice mail messages that need to be returned, and scores of e-mail messages to reply to-and we've only been gone a few hours.

When we leave the office, we take our laptop computer-so we can check our e-mail and search the Internet-our mobile phone, and our beeper. We're afraid to be out of touch for even a few moments. In order to try to stay on top of things, we come in early, stay late, work weekends-and never seem to catch up.

Something's getting lost in all of this chaos and mayhem. We're so busy, and working so hard, that we've lost track of what we really want to be doing with our lives. What we really want to do for ourselves. What we really want to do for our families.

Yes, we've got a job. Yes, we're making a living and paying the bills. But we've forgotten the goals, dreams, and desires of our youth. We're putting in a lot of hard work and effort, but it isn't giving us the inner feelings of satisfaction and fulfillment we need or the success we once dreamed of achieving. We're so busy we don't have time to think about, let alone answer, the age-old question: "What do I want to do when I grow up?"

Excerpt from "Success is a Journey: 7 Steps to Achieving
Success in the Business of Life"
By Jeffrey J. Mayer (McGraw-Hill, 2001)

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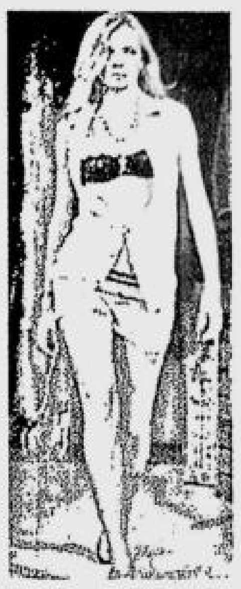
LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

to be you • to be young • to be young • To be you!

Crystal Ball 2003

Be ready to be 'charmed' as 2bU! witches divine the future and give the lowdown on what to expect in fashion, gizmo and music in the new year



What's your goal for 2003?

By Pam Pastor

KAT-KAT

NONA

DANIEL

CHRISSIE

GAMER812

CHINO

THE DAWN of a new year signals new dreams and new wishes. In this survey, people reveal their deepest desires for the new year. At the end of the year, we shall look them up again and find out if they have turned their goals into reality.

I hope to reestablish my independence this year by moving out (again) and finding a new place to stay away from home. In doing so, I would also have to rebuild whatever was engulfed by the fire that stalled my short-lived quest for liberty, particularly my CD collection and my compilation of Dean Koontz novels.—**Chino, 25**

To be good and to make my relationship with my husband work. And, hopefully, go back to school.—**Nona, 24**

To get straight A's, to get a girlfriend and a job.—**Gamer812, 18**

To lose weight.—**Daniel T., 18**

To graduate.—**Chrissie, 23**

To graduate.—**Kat-Kat, 16**

To go back to school, graduate in one year, and start working out and have an Arnold Schwarzenegger body.—**Monica, 22**

Win the Bb. Pilipinas-Universe title.—**Hazel Joyce**

To make my parents proud of me, and lose weight.—**Bi Ramos, 18, UST**

My ultimate goal this year is to live each day without regret.—**Love, 19**

To continue to do good things to other people and to make myself a better person.—**Enzo, 18**

To straighten out my life. I'm not getting any younger; it's time to fix my messy life. I also want to find someone who will love me for who I am.—**Cher, 18**

To stop berating other people.—**Ally, 17**

To find the happiness that I long for.—**Eli, 17**

I'll love myself more, build self-esteem and confidence. I will always think positive and, of course, diet, diet, diet. 2003 will be my year.—**Maybel, 18**

To realize all the projects and activities we planned for the youth of our barangay this year.—**Issey**

To put my mind over my heart. To see things as objectively as possible. To be able to detect if guys are being dirt bags or not. Most importantly, to finally drive.—**Isa, 19**

I want to lose weight.—**Robin, 18**

My ultimate goal is to get off my butt and start making films.—**Carlo, 27**

To be the best that I am, at work, at home, and on relationships. To beat the challenges that lie ahead. To live life to the fullest.—**Deo**

Magtipid. Tapos maghanap ng boyfriend.—**Ruth, 20**

Save enough money to buy myself a kick-ass laptop.—**Purple Monster, 22**

To redecorate my room, wear more skirts and not turn 20.—**Maui, 19**

Tapusin ang thesis *ko*!—**5h1n3 Santiago, 20**

Save money, lose fat, build muscle and be an all-around nicer guy.—**Qpid, 18**

To bum around for a week in Boracay or Puerto Galera.—**Lui**

To travel and to find a relationship that will work.—**Nicole, 19**

Time management.—**Brian Hao, 24**

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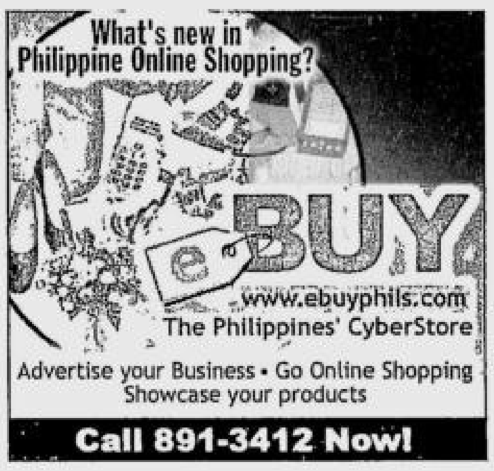

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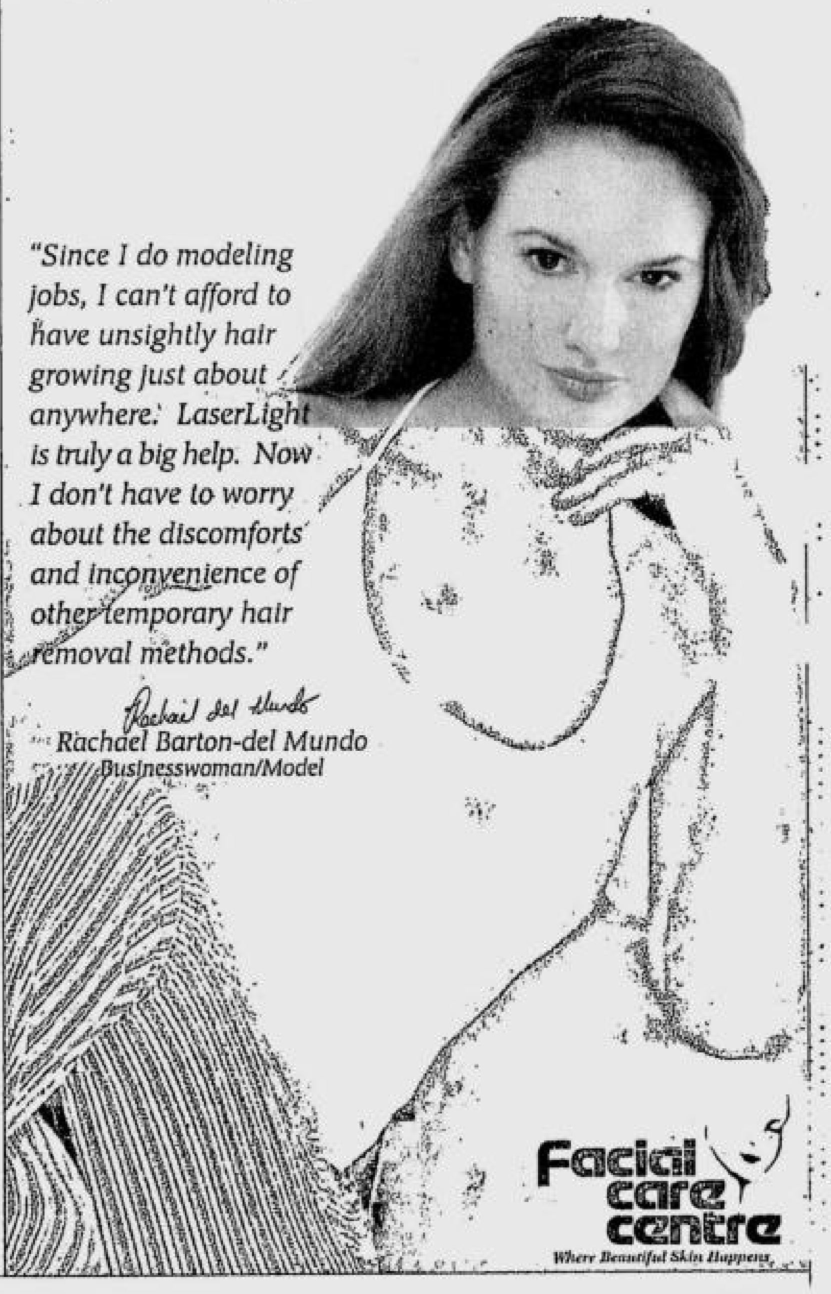

"Since I do modeling jobs, I can't afford to have unsightly hair growing just about anywhere. LaserLight is truly a big help. Now I don't have to worry about the discomforts and inconvenience of other temporary hair removal methods."

Rachael del Mundo
Rachael Barton-del Mundo
Businesswoman/Model

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815-3123	631-3007 • 631-3045	410-3709 • 410-3710		850-4577	243-9895	920-8064		

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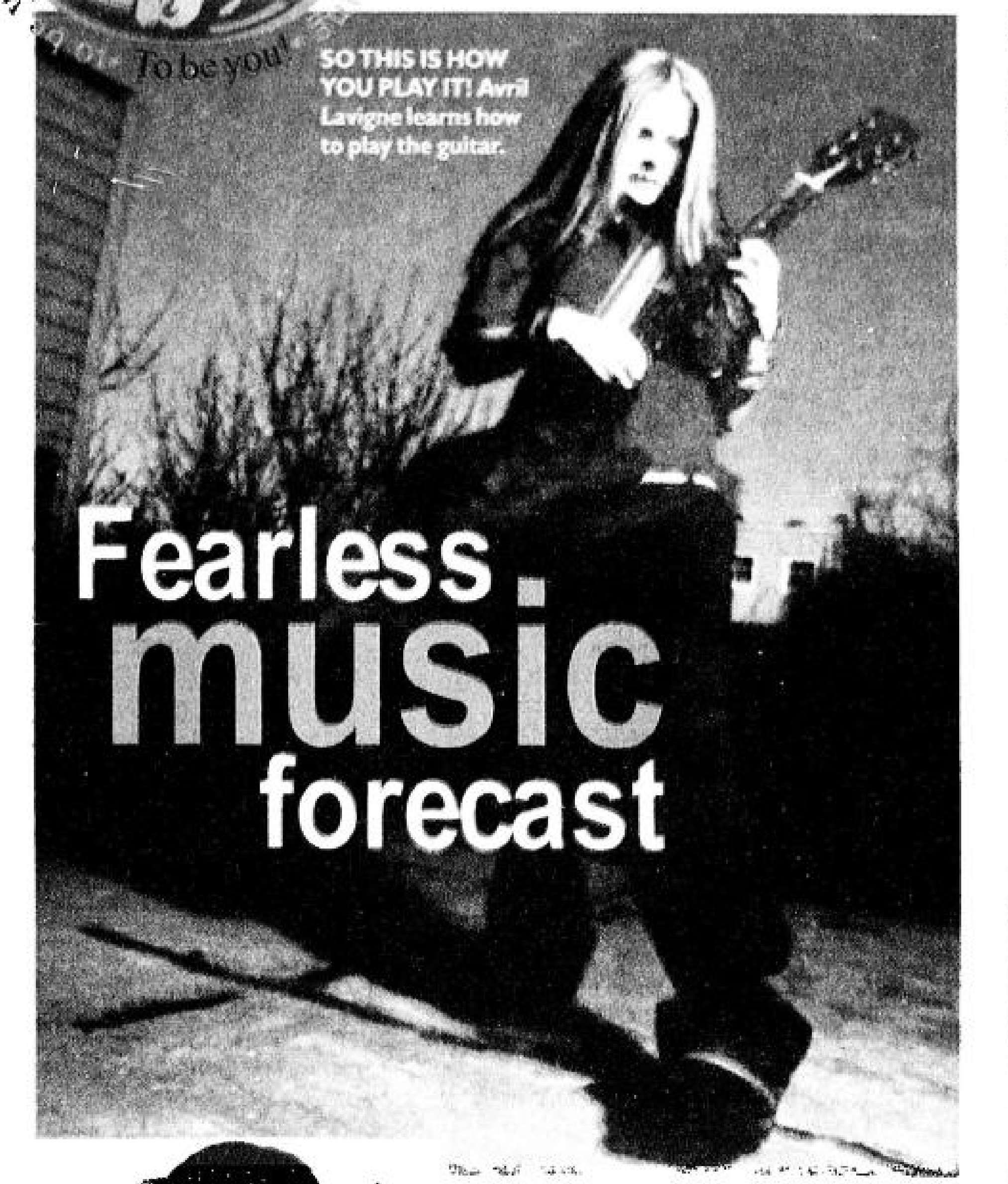
Fearless music forecast


SO THIS IS HOW YOU PLAY IT! Avril Lavigne learns how to play the guitar.

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

FINALLY! After two-and-a-half years of enduring sappy pop love songs from five boys flailing their hands in the air, we got sappy pop love songs from boys with unkempt hair, playing musical instruments that gave a more positive spin to the "boy band" tag. We never thought it could happen.

Latin music wasn't as hot as before, while punk (sporting a necktie and attempting to skateboard) made a comeback in the most commercial form.

Girls still swooned over guys with acoustic guitars (paging John Mayer) and an irritably cheesy dance song got major airplay (don't say you've never broken into a Ketchup dance).

So we've seen the ups and downs of music in 2002. Boy-band heartthrobs embarked on solo careers, hip-hop and R&B produced prodigies, and rock wasn't about the bling-bling but the nerds.

What, then, does 2003 hold for music?

Girls with guitars

We've seen the beginnings of this middle of last year with new albums from artists like M2M, Alanis Morissette and Jewel. But new acts like Michelle Branch and Vanessa Carlton (okay, she's a girl with a piano) will have many girls picking up guitars to sing about their first loves and heartaches (stuff they put in their diaries).

If you don't own a guitar or if you do but can't play it, don't fret. Get some record company bigwigs to "package" you as if you do. Then pick a genre to murder—you can join the legion of Avril Lavigne fans and help butcher punk. The word to keep in mind: "poser."

You thought they're uncool

Remember the losers in class who looked like they hadn't showered in weeks and would rather jam in garages than go to school dances?

Say hello to The Strokes, The Vines, Coldplay—all the bands that just love experimenting, melding the old and the new, and not caring about whether they fit in or not. The uncool don't worry about that.

But the "sensitive" guys still sell records. With the release of John Mayer's second album in February and Dashboard Confessional's breaking heart (which never seems to heal), more guys are starting to realize that, yes, it is okay to get in touch with one's feminine side and sing about it (because it does click with the women).

ASHANTI stands on her own.

You thought they're cool

After Nick Carter and Justin Timberlake's lame attempts to embark on solo careers (fellow 'N Syncer JC Chasez is following in their footsteps), boy bands will soon take that New Kids on the Block road and try to incorporate the latest trends into their music. Let's just hope we don't see a boy-band punk album. It's enough that they dress up as if they are into punk.

The return

Music not only recycles itself, it also evolves. Many musicians are starting to incorporate different types and styles in their work.

We'll also be seeing more lounge type tunes rather than boy bands and rap-core bands. With the likes of Norah Jones making it clear that jazz is not for oldies, it won't be long before the other genres of music that have been almost unheard of will be revived.

> Music genres that have been almost unheard of will be revived

New blood

R&B got new blood in Ashanti, who sang the hook to Ja Rule's tunes before showing the world she's got what it takes to go solo. Look out for fresh material in R&B and hip-hop to knock the socks off Jennifer Lopez.

Homegrown acts

Save up for new CDs, most of them homegrown, to add to your collection. Also check out bands playing around the metro.

Debut releases from the likes of A Murder of Crows and Sugarfree will definitely shake the airwaves, if not get some foreign Top 40 artists to take a breather. High-energy performances from original college bands deserve an audience, so hold off buying a new cell card and watch some good OPM (original Pinoy music).

With computers and CD writers, many bands are starting to make their albums independently, turning down offers from record companies to have full freedom in making their albums. Most releases this year will be done independently, and won't go for higher than P250 a pop.

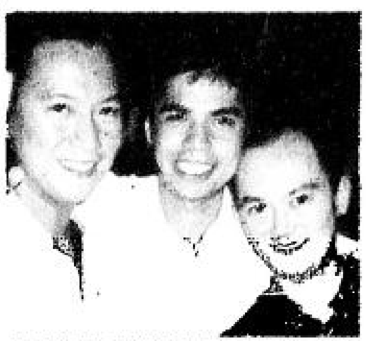
THE VINES is Rolling Stone's 2002 Band of the Year.

---

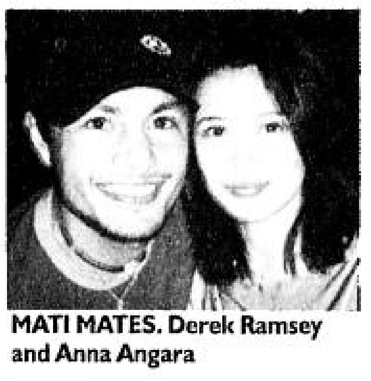
blue and Greek

Tim Yap

EARTH SCOUT. Miguel Rosales withRosanna Escudero


LA VIE BOHEME. Nino Zulueta, Raj Moreno and Pepper Teehankee chilling out.

MODEL POSE. Paolo Cabalfin and Isabel Roces


MATI MATES. Derek Ramsey and Anna Angara

DESPITE the traffic and the hectic social calendar that the meet-and-greet season brings, Manila's hip, young partyphiles are up for a tireless hop. From campus reunions to hot, hot shebangs and company gatherings, it's one nonstop dress-up, gift-exchanging (still, for the late ones), theme-partying, eating-and-drinking revelry—the holiday season is not over... yet.

Hip Rockwell spot Mati turned a year older right in the middle of the holiday rush with the city's hot, young set in full attendance. "Gold, blue or anything Greek" was the attire request of glam Grecian goddess **Geni Psinakis**. Days before that, the hottest invitation came in the form of giant cardboard *matis* (the Greek amulet that protects us from evil). It came alongside the invite for **Celine Lopez**'s "From Coffee to Cocktails" book launch (Geni and Celine are cousins from the Lopez side).

The week before that, event organizer, Mother Earth activist and yoga enthusiast **Rosanna Escudero** staged her "Visual Poetry" —her first major event along with **Anton Ramos, Gutsy Tuason** and TechnoMarine. It was a great success, to say the least, an event that mixed fun, frolic and a sincere environmental thrust, giving the vibe much more soul. Here's to more at Mati.

"I think it's the best Greek restaurant," said my workout buddy **Lars**, a giant god of a German. I interrupted him by saying, "But it's the only Greek resto in town!" He rebutted, "... in the world, I mean."

Well, that is because of Geni and cousin and co-owner **Yorgos Psinakis**' attention to detail and quality.

The Greek chic event also showed attention to the most important detail of a party: the fun element.

LOOKS GREEK TO ME. Carmen Delgado walks home with a ticket to Greece at the Mati anniversary party.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Upon entry, people were greeted by Mati's affable staff. They were treated to plates and plates of Greek goodies. I went straight to the martini bar to get that right shade of sloshed pink in my face. At the time, hipster's choice DJ **David Jacob** had just started, as the scene, full of globetrotting partyphiles back for the holidays, social scenesters and pretty, pretty party animals, went all out mingling, boozing and dancing to his beat.

Athens, Greece

Babes in different shades of blue went around the venue, providing sexy seduction. At the party's peak, prizes were given out to those in sizzling sartorial skins. Model **Rachel Soriano**, in a gold tank top, blue denims and tons of attitude came in third. **Joseph Bernabe**, in a light turquoise top with Christmasy accents, was second. They both received supercute cameras in the form of Heineken cans.

But the piece de resistance—a trip to Athens, Greece—went to pretty, pretty, pretty **Carmen Delgado** (beauty runs in their blood—just look at sis **Lia**, brother **Ricky** and the rest of the Delgados) who came as a mod Grecian goddess complete with golden hair accents.

All boozed up and on chill mode, I sat by the DJ's booth as DJ **Manolet Dario**'s set was peaking. I looked around, observing the people there—everyone was so beautiful in his/her own right, doing subtle model poses and looking oh-so cool.

Mati is truly the most perfect spot this side of town for beautiful people watching.

It even became more interesting when Mati's staff started grooving on the dance floor. Urban socialites danced with the bartender and security staff. Waiters gyrated as they passed around the drinks, with Geni joining them—it had that relaxed and fun family atmosphere that most cold watering holes do not possess.

MATI MISTRESSES. Sady Callaghan, Geni Psinakis and Maria Parsons

To top it off, warm greetings and hugs from partyphiles wishing each other the best of the holidays made the party even more special.

Up until now, Pinoys are still greeting each other "Happy holidays!" —it truly ain't over till it's over. To Mati, cheers to a year of great Greek magic, and here's to more!

New Year shopping

Time to get a new wardrobe. The best bet would be to hop off to Linea Italia for the "Last Italian Flood"—the biggest fashion event this season. All items go for 30-60 percent off until supplies last.

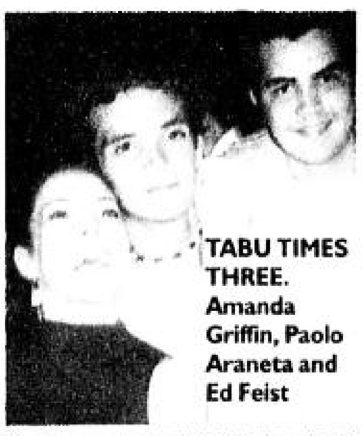
I heard this might be the "last"—so if I were you, I'd run to grab a Versace, Ferre, Dolce & Gabbana, Trussardi, etc...

Enjoy the start of 2003, dear partyphiles.

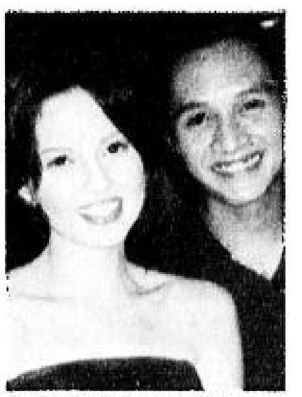
HIPSTERS HAVEN. Amaya Barretto and Bianca Zobel

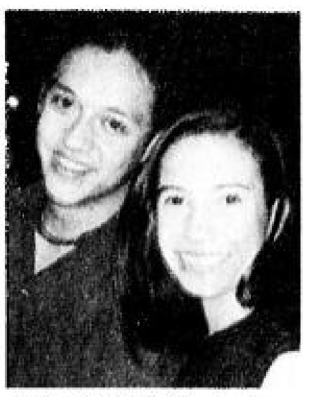
U R WITH JOEY. Ria Romero and Hindy Tantoco

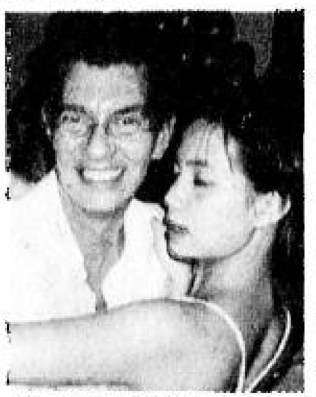
MODEL ORGY. Phoemela Baranda, Epy Quizon, Norris Lopez and Rachel Soriano

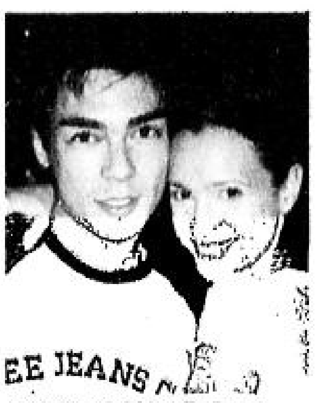

TABU TIMES THREE. Amanda Griffin, Paolo Araneta and Ed Feist

FRESH PICKS. Francisco Delgado and Gabbie de la Rama


MODEL MANIA. Patty Morato and Marco de Guzman


PUPPY LOVE. Martin de Guzman and Steph Zubiri


DIE ANOTHER DAY. Yorgos Psinakis and Celine Lopez



POWER COUPLE. Greg Martin and Clara Balaguer

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS. Sunshine de Leon and Ricky Delgado

COUSIN SMACK. Michelle and Dos Quizon at Mati

FASHION 2003

Summer all year long

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

IF YOU want to look hot this year, you've got to think of the Spanish coastal hideaways such as St. Tropez and Portofino. This is according to the design duo Dolce and Gabbana. This means a lot of fine, floral prints as well as shades in bold colors for women.

PAUL Costelloe does flowers in his London collection.

NEWSBOY cap and plaid trousers make a smart urban outfit.

The Spring/Summer 2003 shows by other international designers have also heralded the colors white and khaki, as well as flat-front, loose trousers and slippers for men. It's all about looking laid-back, without looking lousy. Relaxed but sophisticated.

Colors are downplayed this year, with shocking hues taking the backseat. White is going to be in, as well as brown and olive/moss green.

But we do not suggest that you wear all-white. The idea is that it should play as your dominant color, adding accents of louder colors such as orange and yellow, the only flashy colors considered hot. Apart from those, monochromatic colors appear to be a safe choice for mix and match, so stock on those off-whites, such as cream and beige, to go with the color of the season.

For men's trousers, gone are the days of the crotch-crushing pants, those too-tight jeans that you can't really walk in. Pants this year range from loose fit to super baggy, with combat pants marking a resurrection.

Denim nation

Denim is still going to be big, although instead of bleached and dyed jeans, we should be seeing a lot of patched ones soon. British designer Paul Smith has them with stars and stripes near the pockets.

Also, pants this year should be flat-front, to complement the clean, sleek look of the year.

So how do you wear them? Dangerously low, slung just below the hipbone. For denim pants, they should be in the lightest of blue. If you want darker pants, toss out dark blue in favor of brown and black jeans.

For a different approach to trousers, vertical prints, such as pinstripes and the corduroy, should offer an alternative look to bleached jeans.

And since the summer look will dominate the early part of the year, shorts should be in. They can be worn very low and cropped exactly up to the knees, with the edges distressed, although very minimally.

It would be interesting to see the comeback of the combat pants, but this time around, the emphasis won't be on the number of pockets they have. Instead, they are going to be oversized, super baggy and polyester-like in material. The look is to tuck the ends inside one's boots, like how ROTC cadets do it. Remember not to wear them in camouflage though, as that is definitely out.

For women, sexy is definitely in. Mini-skirts are going to be back in the limelight, as well as slimmer stilettos. Denims for women will also be more flirty, with laces and ruffles adorning this well-loved fabric.

Summer shirts

For shirts, you definitely have to toss out your jackets at the start of the year as the summer look begins early. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts will be much more practical to wear, in colors that should be vibrant, like red, blue and purple. Also, shirts with three collar buttons, similar to camiso de chinos, are destined to be hot, thanks to Calvin Klein's efforts.

Meanwhile, Versace thinks "Cuban Aristocracy" is the look of the season, hailing ruffle-front shirts as must-buys. Plaid and checkered polo shirts will also hit it big this year, so ask your parents if they have some left from the '70s.

Also, in keeping with the sophisticated look of the year, golf should serve as an inspiration for the look of young people today. Think collared shirts, with stripes (vintage Lacostè), khakis and a golf cap—that would be the cocky boy look.

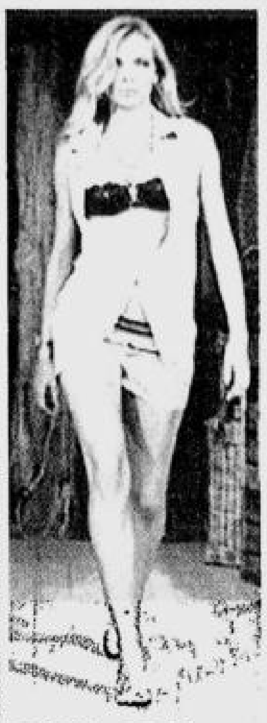
When the rainy season comes however, most designers, like Louis Vuitton, think that hooded jackets are going to be in.

Meanwhile, sneakers are still going to dominate footwear fashion, most of which are now acceptable to be paired with formal suits. Even slippers will be hitting it big this year, but they should be slim and not chunky.

For accessories, we don't see much of leather belts, compared to garter and the woven ones, with stripes and monochromatic colors. That doesn't mean though that you should throw out the wide belts popular last season. Necklaces will be really long and low, those that will go well with sweaters. Fedora hats were big in the Gucci show, while newsboy caps and berets were used in Dolce & Gabbana.

Big shades will be hot this year, although the frames will be relatively smaller and slimmer compared to the previous years.

STARS and stripes dominate the Paul Smith collection, without looking American.



DOLCE and Gabbana goes iconoclastic with short shorts, stilettos and rosary beads.

THE RICH, Ivy League look... in slippers.

In and out of season, the tropical look is in

List of beauty resolutions

Lora Gabol

I NEVER put faith in New Year's resolutions, probably because I spend most of the 365 days following their "birth" witnessing them disintegrate into has-been good causes.

On a lighter note, there are some small but substantial "resolutions" you can make that won't leave you feeling like a trying-hard modern-day hero, and it can be as simple as rearranging your vanity kit.

To save you the trouble of having to devise an improved *kikay* plan for 2003, I have come up with a list of beauty resolutions.

Simplify your skin-care regimen. Try your best not to spend your Christmas cash on an entirely new skin-care line, especially if your current products already work for you. If you really have to spend on a skin boost, choose a treatment you really need, whether it be anti-acne, blemish lightening or rejuvenation.

Love your complexion, girl! Stop using those bleaching solutions and enhance what you were born with instead. Same goes for selecting foundation and powder shades.

Don't subject your skin to "overnight wonders." I know they sound promising, but these "peel after 24 hours" concoctions can spell disaster for your skin. A gradual improvement is best, and can bring your complexion more good in the long run.

Don't neglect your eyebrows. The phrase "windows to the soul" just ain't right with bushy overgrowths above them, don't you think?

Don't let anything microbe-infested touch your face. Dodge that nasty habit of resting your chin on the phone receiver. Sleep on fresh, clean pillowcases. Lastly, resist touching or scratching your face!

Use a face mask on a weekly basis. It's the least busy girls can do.

Moisturize your eye area. Assuming that nobody above age 24 is reading this article, we are not yet in need of heavy-duty wrinkle-fighting eye potions. A refreshing eye gel will do, perhaps a cocktail of antioxidants and emollients, just to support the old cliché, "An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure."

Stay away from the sun as much as possible or make SPF your new best buddy. That wonderful tan you have today translates to a dozen more lines on your face a decade from now, so arm yourself with at least an SPF 15 for everyday use.

Use a conditioner on your hair everyday. It's not one of those things you reserve for when you have extra time in your hands. Hair needs moisturizing TLC, too!

Never run a brush through wet hair. Unless you want a head of split ends, keep a wide-toothed comb ready after a shower.

Trim your hair every after four to six weeks. Again, nobody wants schizophrenic hair ends! Getting a regular trim will keep hair looking healthy while maintaining shape and manageability.

Don't overload on hair gunk. Let the follicles breathe! A light gel or wax will do for shorties, and a polishing serum or laminator spray will keep long locks perfectly groomed.

Love your natural hair color. This doesn't mean you should swear off hair coloring forever! Just keep it natural and as close as possible to your natural shade. Or get some highlights instead. Less maintenance, less damage from all that peroxide.

Start using more than just a bar of soap in the bath. Bath gels, fizzy bath salts, polishing scrubs, bath oils... the bath and shower possibilities are endless! Make bath time a mini-spa experience.

Moisturize every nook and cranny of your body, especially the elbows and knees.

Get rid of unsightly hair in the wrong places. Shave, wax, laser... just do whatever it takes.

Makeup is not the be-all and end-all of beauty. Au naturelle is best. Maintain good skin and that natural glow sans rouge will follow. Keep everyday makeup to a minimum. Saves you time and your complexion's future.

Throw away old makeup. Quit being a sentimental schmuck and chuck the lipstick your ex-boyfriend from seventh grade gave you.

Experiment with clothes, hair and makeup. It's time to challenge your beauty comfort zone and discover a newer, more fabulous you!

Keep a healthy lifestyle. Start putting those sweat glands to use (walking while shopping will do), eat the right food, kick (nicotine) butt, easy on the alcohol intake.

Enjoy life! Happiness gives off a kind of beauty no product can give.

A prosperous and beautiful New Year to all!

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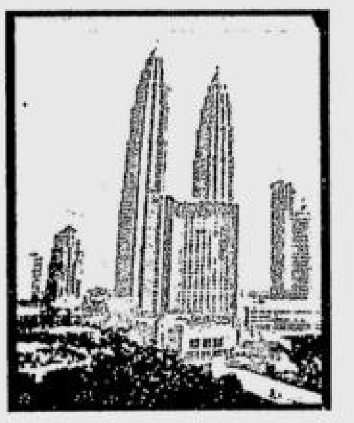

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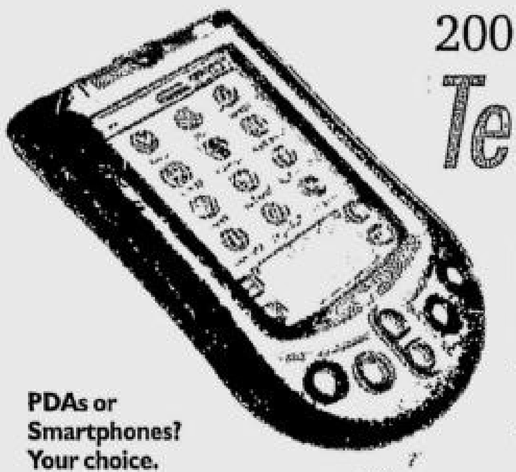
2003: A SPACE-AGE ODYSSEY?

Technology's fearless forecasts for the new year



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Palm or pocket? Which videogame console will perish? And will Steve Jobs finally grant our wish?

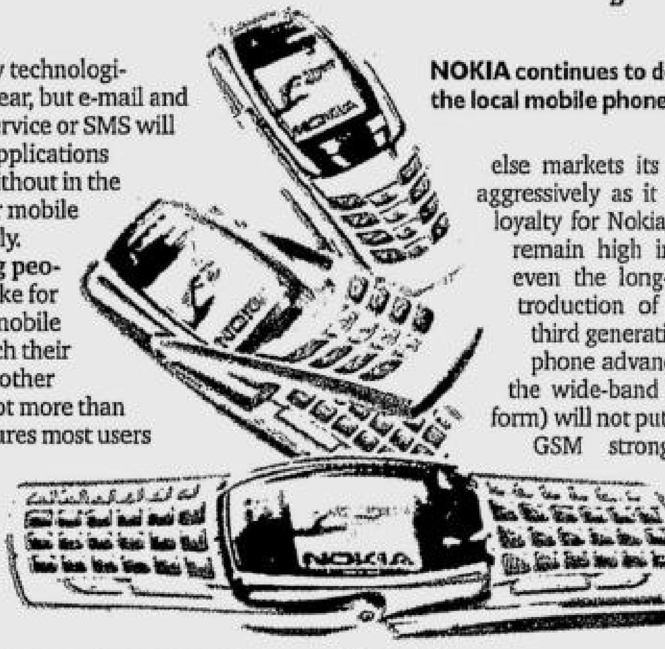
By Edwin P. Sallan
2bU! Correspondent

YES, it was quite a year for technology in 2002. Who would have thought that cryptic-sounding terms such as MP3, Bluetooth, GPRS, MMS, Mac OS X, Windows XP, PS2, Xbox, PocketPC and many more would actually mean anything to us at the start of the new millennium?

But the more important question is what exciting innovations will the immediate future bring further? Nobody really knows for sure what lies ahead, but it sure is fun to at least take several educated guesses. Here we go.

It's still e-mail and text messaging, stupid. There will be many technological advances this year, but e-mail and short messaging service or SMS will remain the killer applications that we can't do without in the Internet and in our mobile phones, respectively.

Still connecting people. What will it take for millions of Nokia mobile phone users to ditch their phones in favor of other brands? A whole lot more than the advanced features most users don't really need. Nokia already has a lock on that all-important cool factor and nobody else markets its products as aggressively as it does. Brand loyalty for Nokia phones will remain high in 2003 that even the long-overdue introduction of 3G (or the third generation of mobile phone advances based on the wide-band CDMA platform) will not put a dent on its GSM stronghold here. Nokia's own version of 3G may be the way to go for early 3G adopters.



NOKIA continues to dominate the local mobile phone market.

Only one handheld will do. Palm or PocketPC? Smartphones or Personal Digital Assistants? Well, we do know that most users prefer to carry only one handheld device at a time so this is most likely the year when the above questions will be answered with a degree of certainty. Our fearless forecasts? In a cellphone-crazy country like ours, most people will find smartphones as the better deal over PDAs. And the PDA platform wars? PocketPCs continuous improvement has made it a real formidable alternative to Palm. Unless the latter comes up with new rabbits inside its hat, this could be the year PocketPC would grab the lead and become the handheld platform of preference.

And then there were two. 2002 saw some of the most exhilarating and realistic-looking games. Next-generation videogame consoles such as the Sony PS2, Microsoft Xbox and the Nintendo GameCube delivered truly interactive gaming experiences no previous gaming platform (including the PC) had ever provided. The new year will continue this exciting trend, but toward the end, three may prove to be a crowd so one of the players will have to drop out, just like Sega's ill-fated Dreamcast before it. Who's it going to be? Not Sony, which continues to dominate this particular platform war.

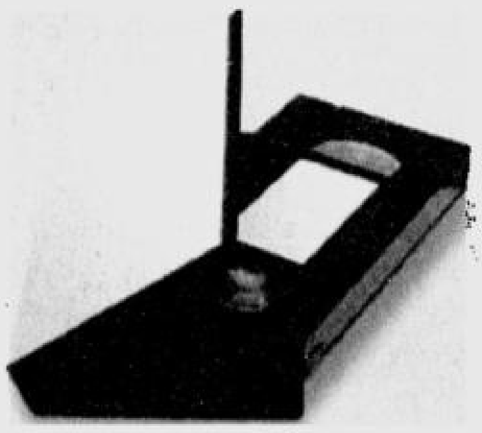
Laps of lighter luxury. 2003 will be the year when things become leaner and meaner. Last year, the Apple iBook and most recently, the IBM Thinkpad X30 have finally proven that laptops are light and sturdy enough to carry in one's backup and yes, can be truly placed in one's lap for hours without getting hot and heavy. Lighter in weight did not necessarily mean lighter on the pocket in 2002, though and this is not likely to change this year.

DVD, Sir? VHS will become history in 2003 and VCDs will slowly become irrelevant as the more technically superior DVD platform will become more affordable and accessible to many people. Generic players are now hovering within the P4,000-plus ballpark and DVD-Rs have demonstrated that anybody can easily make their own high-quality home-made videos. If 2002 was a breakout year for DVD, 2003 will be the year it becomes a staple in just about every household.

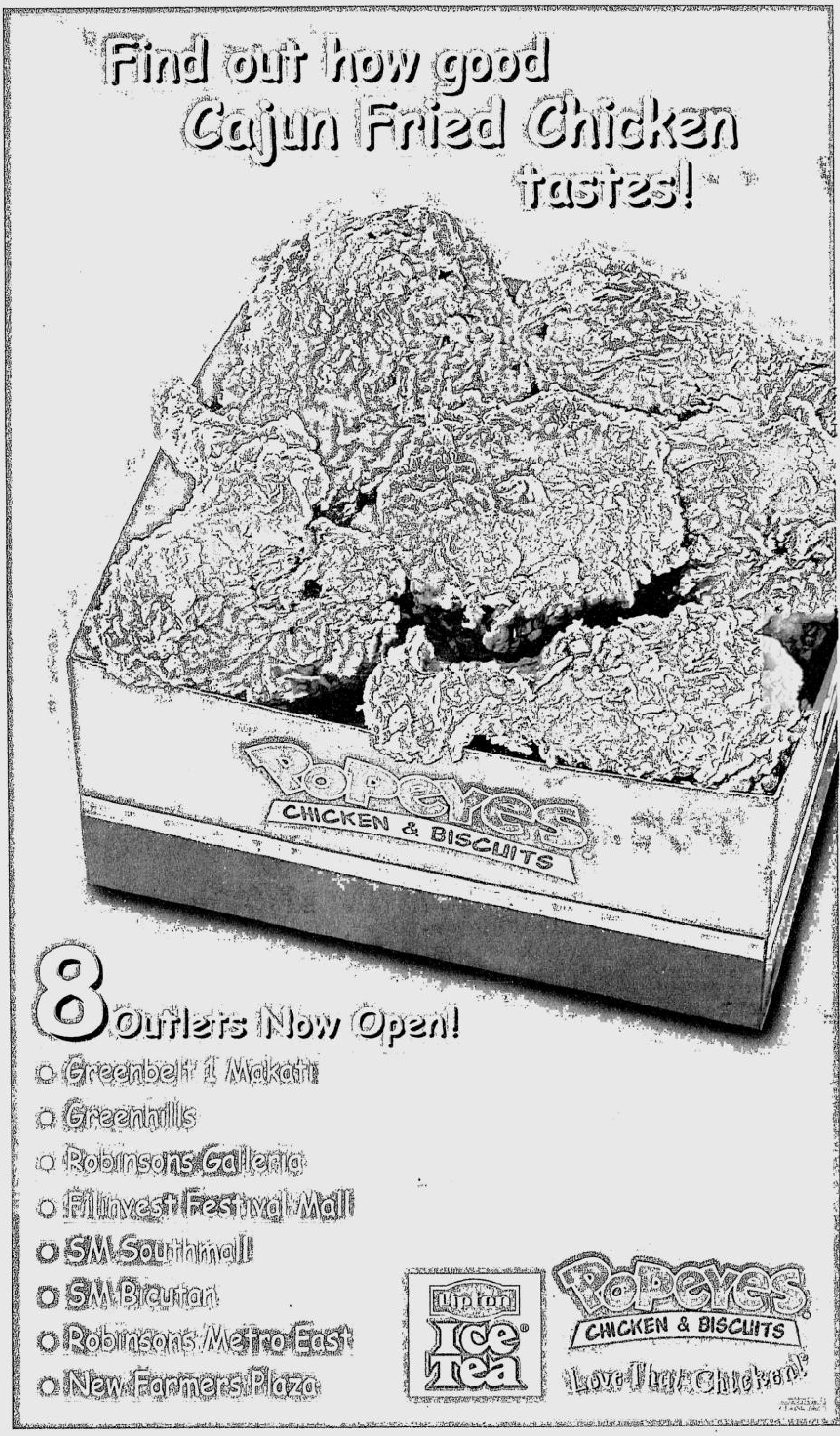
Apple Schmapple. So what does our favorite fruit company have in store for us in 2003? In recent years, number one in most Mac users wish list was a new Apple PDA, similar but way better than the Newton introduced many summers ago. This may be the year that Steve Jobs grants the wish. Or Apple can also come up with a new iPod that plays Quicktime music videos, how about that? Or an iMac that really doubles as a lamp and coffeemaker? An iBook that responds to voice commands and flips open and boots by itself upon your say-so?

Happy new year, everybody.

SONY PS 2 provides interactive gaming experiences.



THE VHS is headed for extinction.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